

Bavarian resort blast kills 3

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, West Germany (R) — A big explosion ripped through a hotel in this Bavarian ski resort on Friday, killing at least three people and injuring 16, a police spokesman said. He said the death toll from the blast, thought by the fire service to have been a gas explosion, was likely to rise. The northern wing of the Rössersee hotel in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and its indoor pool were "literally blown into the air" by the force of the blast, the spokesman said. "We suspect at this point that it was a natural gas explosion," the police official said of the blast that occurred at 4:09 p.m. (1509 GMT). He said there were "a number of dead and injured," but it was too early to determine how many. The police official said all available rescue, firefighting and police rushed to the scene.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية الأردنية الرأية

Lebanese sailors said held by Israelis

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — The captain of a Lebanese cargo vessel and one of his crew are being held in Israel more than 10 days after their ship was intercepted off the southern port of Tyre, Lebanese police said Saturday. They said an Israeli gunboat diverted the Monte Roro, sailing from Italy with a cargo of cars, to an unidentified port in Israel, where crewmen were questioned. "They forced it to dock in Israel. After three days of investigations they freed six sailors, but detained the captain and another sailor," one source said. The sources said they did not know where the ship was now or what motivated the Israeli action. In recent years Israel's navy has intercepted several ships in the Mediterranean, sometimes taking them into Israeli ports, with the declared aim of preventing seaborne guerrilla raids.

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King sends good wishes to Nepal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable to King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah, King of Nepal, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day. In his cable, King Hussein wished King Birendra, whose birthday coincides with his country's National Day, happiness and continued good health and to the Nepalese people further prosperity and progress.

Masri briefs Cabinet

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet on Saturday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and listened to a briefing by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri on the outcome of last week's meeting in Tunis of Arab foreign ministers on the "champs war" in Lebanon. The Cabinet also discussed a number of subjects and took a number of decisions.

Big explosion reported in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — An ammunition consignment accidentally exploded at a military garrison in Tehran on Saturday, injuring several people, the Iranian national news agency (IRNA) reported. Residents said windows were broken within a 1.5-kilometre radius of the centre of the blast, at 2:40 p.m. (1110 GMT), and ambulances were still busy in the area four hours later. Fragments of exploded mortar bombs littered streets and telephones were out of order a kilometre away from the garrison.

Freji calls for year of peace

TEL AVIV (R) — The Palestinian mayor of the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem called on Arabs and Jews on Saturday to declare 1987 a year of truce in the hope of promoting Middle East peace. Mayor Elias Freji said in an interview on Israeli Radio: "I want to take this opportunity to say that there has to be a truce for one year, all of 1987, to stop all acts of violence, whether on the ground, by sea, by air, by knife or by guns between Arabs and Israelis — and that really will help to promote the spirit towards better understanding." Hanna Siniora, Palestinian activist and editor of the East Jerusalem daily Al Fair, urged Israel to conduct direct negotiations with the PLO.

Kuwait hopes for full attendance at OIC summit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said Saturday he hoped all Muslim heads of state would attend next month's summit meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Kuwait. Sheikh Sabah, who had talks here on prospects for the summit with Maldives Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel also told reporters: "Our problems are not easy and if they are not settled at this conference of the Islamic world leaders, they will be difficult to resolve elsewhere."

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Iraq says 32,000 Iranians killed in thwarted offensive

Iranian corpses litter Umm Al Rassas

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ said Saturday over 32,000 Iranian soldiers were killed as Iraqi troops beat back an Iranian assault on the island of Umm Al Rassas in the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

Reporters visiting the island on Saturday said Iraqi troops were fortifying positions in the Umm Al Rassas battlefield strewn with bodies of hundreds of Iranian soldiers.

The reporters filed dispatches saying they saw the corpses littering the ground or floating in swamp waters east of the southern Iraqi port city of Basra.

The Iranians were killed in a 14-hour battle which started on Wednesday night, when Iraq said Iran launched a two-pronged offensive across the Shatt Al Arab waterway separating the two countries and east of Basra.

Iraqi army commanders said the two-day offensive was crushed and all fighting was over by Friday morning.

Iraq claimed its forces had launched only a limited operation and achieved their objectives.

Major-General Taji Khalil Al Douri, commander of the Third Iraqi Army corps, told the reporters: "They were not able to advance more than 30 metres... in this sector of the front."

"We used tanks, air power,"

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said 32,344 Iranians were killed as Iraqi troops beat back the attack, which began Wednesday night.

Earlier, Iraqi officials had put Iranian toll at 10,000 in what Baghdad called a major offensive aimed at Basra, the nation's second-largest.

Iran claimed its forces killed 3,000 Iraqis in what it called a limited operation, mounted in retaliation to recent air attacks on its cities.

Iraqi newspapers, in war commentaries on Saturday, said the swift defeat of the new Iranian offensive had again demonstrated Iraq's battle-front superiority.

Al Thawra said: "The military choice sought by Iran is doomed to failure and all the offensives, including the recent one, with Iran's own timing and setting have been unfruitful."

"Yesterday's victory proved Iraq's continued superiority — nevertheless Iran continues its intransigence to prolong the war in which Iran will only reap destruction, catastrophe and mass death."

Al Qadisiya said the quick end to the Iranian offensive "proved once again" that Iraq still held the war-front initiative.

Al Jumhuriya, referring to the revelation of U.S. arms supplies to Iran, said Tehran had reaped a "bitter harvest" and would not profit from Zionist help.

The soldiers dug trenches and fortified their defences on the island, which is about 40 kilometres southeast of Basra.

Reagan calls Iran arms deal controversy a disappointment

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan said Saturday 1986 had been a very good year but acknowledged that the Iran arms crisis, the worst scandal to hit his administration, had been a disappointment.

In his regular Saturday radio address, recorded before he left the White House for a six-day New Year's holiday in California, Mr. Reagan said he was committed to clearing up the controversy surrounding the secret sales of arms to Tehran and the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed rebels in Nicaragua.

"The Iran controversy has certainly been a disappointment for all of us," he said, adding: "Nonetheless, I am committed to getting all the facts and fixing whatever went wrong..."

Although conceding that Iran had been a disappointment, Mr. Reagan said the year had been "very good."

He cited as evidence the improved American economy, progress on social issues such as drug abuse, and a narrowing of U.S.-Soviet differences on arms reduction.

Mr. Reagan, under pressure from his staff and Republican colleagues in Congress, has named retiring NATO Ambassador David Abshire as a special adviser to coordinate White House policy on the Iran issue. Mr. Abshire, 60, will hold cabinet rank.

The White House said in a

statement he would "head a team that will coordinate activities in all aspects of the Iran matter."

He is expected to facilitate responses to congressional and other requests for information and report directly to Mr. Reagan.

Several inquiries have been set up to look into the scheme, which involved the channelling of as much as \$30 million from clandestine weapons sales to Iran to the so-called contras fighting

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Hostage-bargaining is still a key option for U.S.; broader questions still unfolding on contra link, page 4
CIA chief 'recovering very slowly,' page 8

PLO confirms contributing to release of hostage

KUWAIT (AP) — A top aide to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday the PLO contributed to efforts that led to the release of French hostage Aurel Comea.

Salah Khalaf, second-in-command to Mr. Arafat in the mainline Fatah group, expressed readiness to continue helping until all hostages held in Lebanon, including Americans, were freed.

"We are keen on getting all hostages held in Lebanon freed, including the Americans, so that there would be no more pretexts for accusing the Arab World of leading terrorism," Mr. Khalaf told AP.

Mr. Khalaf thus confirmed a report in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas of a PLO role in Comea's Christmas eve release. He said the PLO has been exerting efforts towards that end for a long period and at the behest of the French government.

"We have been exerting our mediation bids over the past two years in response to a request by the French government," said Mr. Khalaf, adding "but sometimes we succeed and sometimes we fail."

Asked to what extent the PLO efforts were effective, Mr. Khalaf replied: "We did it with others." He declined to be specific on the efforts, in which Syria and Algeria have reportedly played roles.

Mr. Khalaf also declined to elaborate on the PLO contacts

India and Pakistan resume talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Senior Indian and Pakistani officials resumed talks on Saturday in a cautious search for better relations between their traditionally rival countries.

Both sides expressed hope of progress in the two-day meeting, the second contact within a week in line with a decision last month by their prime ministers, Rajiv Gandhi of India and Mohammad Khan Junejo of Pakistan.

No details were immediately available of the first rounds of formal talks between Indian Foreign Ministry Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran and his Pakistani counterpart Abdus Sattar.

But they were expected to have renewed discussions on a treaty banning attacks on each other's nuclear installations.

The two countries have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over the disputed Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir.

They have also been discussing for four years now their parallel proposals for a peace treaty between them.

Relations have remained strained in recent years following Indian charges that Pakistan has helped Sikh extremists campaigning for a separate homeland in the north Indian state of Punjab. Pakistan denies the charge.

S. Arabia describes as 'ludicrous' claim that Iraqi plane was stormed at Ara'r

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Saudi Arabia on Saturday rejected as "ludicrous" a claim by an underground group that Saudi commandos had stormed an Iraqi plane that went down after an aborted hijack attempt and subsequent grenade explosions aboard.

The Saudi Press Agency, quoting an unidentified government source, said in a dispatch on Saturday that claims by the so-called Islamic Revolutionary Movement in Beirut, were received in the Kingdom with "ridicule and derision."

The source quoted the survivors as praising the humanitarian help the Saudi authorities gave them, saying that helped save the lives of 44 of the people aboard.

"Those survivors have reported to their authorities the full details of the developments from when the Iraqi jetliner was hijacked until it hit the ground and burned," the source said.

The source said Saudi Arabia had already reported the full extent of its involvement from the moment airport authorities picked up a distress call from the pilot saying he was making an emergency landing "without

disclosing any reason."

"Permission for the landing was instantly granted while emergency rescue preparations were immediately readied," the source said.

The claim by the Islamic Revolutionary Movement, one of four underground groups that claimed responsibility for the aborted hijacking which resulted in the death of 62 people Thursday night, came in a statement distributed in Beirut Friday night. It charged that the hijackers of the Iraqi Airways Boeing 737, on a flight from Baghdad to Amman, had managed to seize control of the aircraft before Saudi air force jets forced it to land at the Saudi airport at Ara'r. Subsequently, the statement claimed, the Saudi authorities ordered the hijackers to surrender.

When the gunmen refused to surrender, Saudi commandos stormed the plane from the rear, according to the Islamic Revolutionary Movement's claim.

According to survivors, the plane plunged from 28,000 feet after the hijack attempt was bungled and one of the hijackers threw two hand grenades — one at the cockpit and the other towards

the rear of the plane.

The cockpit crew lost control of the plane and the aircraft plunged to the ground as it was trying to make an emergency landing at Ara'r, breaking into two on impact, and exploded minutes later, according to accounts of the incident by former Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and businessman Saleem Al Dado, both of whom, along with Mr. Arar's brother Khaled, survived the crash.

The Saudi Defence Ministry said Friday there were 107 — 91 passengers, 15 crewmembers and a security man — aboard the plane. It said 62 people were killed and 32 of 44 survivors injured. It did not account for the 107th person.

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times on Friday that at least one hijacker was arrested by the Saudi authorities and was under interrogation.

Mr. Dado identified the captain of the plane as Mahmoud Rifai and the co-pilot by his first name — Nabil. He said he saw the uniformed corpses of a steward and stewardess.

The identity of the would-be hijackers was not clear. Iraq blamed "agents" of Iran. Its

enemy in the six-year-old Gulf war while Iran officially denied involvement.

A telephone caller in Beirut claiming to speak for the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad (holy war) organisation said it staged the attack in cooperation with Al Daawa, a Muslim fundamentalist group.

But a second caller, also claiming to represent Islamic Jihad, denied it had any connection with the attempt to commandeer the airliner.

The Iraqi ambassador in Washington, interviewed Friday night by CBS News, said a Jordanian official aboard the plane had identified the hijackers.

Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun was quoted as saying: "At least two pro-Iranian people were on board and they hijacked the plane. This confirms that Iran or the groups that are supported by Iran were behind this incident."

Two other groups in Beirut in addition to the Islamic Revolutionary Movement and Islamic Jihad — the hitherto unknown "Revolutionary Organisation" and the "Shi'ite Revolutionary Organisation" — also claimed responsibility for the hijack attempt.

Amal-PLO war is rekindled; month-long toll rises to 526

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian fighters traded mortar and rocket fire with Lebanese Amal militiamen on Saturday, ending a Christmas lull in a month-long, Syrian-backed thrust to avert a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) comeback to Lebanon.

Police said eight people were killed and 40 wounded in the clashes around the besieged refugee camps of Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh between PLO fighters and militiamen from the Shi'ite Amal movement, Syria's main ally in Lebanon.

The turmoil also had a bearing on the country's already battered economy, pushing the Lebanese pound to a record low of 90 to the U.S. dollars. It had closed at 83 to the dollar Friday (See page 7).

The new casualties around the Beirut camps raised to 526 people killed and 1,335 wounded the overall toll from PLO-Amal fighting in Beirut and South Lebanon since Nov. 24.

Thuds of exploding shells echoed across Beirut as the two sides pounded each other with mortar fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

The camps' defenders accused Amal of "escalating the confrontation" after an unofficial five-day truce.

Amal communiques accused Palestinian gunners deployed in the hill-top village of Maghdousheh, near Sidon, two weeks ago, of "indiscriminately shelling" the Shi'ite-populated slums of Bir Al Abed, Haret Hasek and Ghobeiri, which are adjacent to the shantytowns.

Ambulances with wailing sirens rushed victims to hospitals in the heart of west Beirut. Gunmen fired their automatic rifles into the air to make way for the ambulances caught in traffic.

Amal has been fighting the Palestinians intermittently since May 1985 when Palestinian fighters were reported to have begun filtering back. It has declared it wants to stop PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat from rebuilding his power base in Lebanon.

United Nations and Palestinian sources say at least 3,500 hardcore PLO fighters have returned to Lebanon in the past year.

The Iranian embassy in Beirut urged combatants Friday night to "adhere scrupulously to the ceasefire already agreed upon."

In a press statement, it said Iran would maintain its drive to implement a peace plan and urged Amal to lift its blockade of Rashidiyeh refugee camp near Tyre "so that innocent Palestinian women and children will not suffer unjustly."

The statement followed a peace appeal by Iranian President Ali Khamenei, who told a Friday prayer session in Tehran that only Israel and its allies benefited from the "camps war."

Under the Iranian plan, Palestinian fighters made a limited pullback in the strategic southern hill-top village of Maghdousheh, near Sidon, two weeks ago.

Pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militiamen deployed in positions they had left, forming a buffer zone. Some supplies were then allowed into Rashidiyeh under the supervision of Iranian

mediator Issa Tabatabai, who has remained in the camp.

But the accord was not fully implemented, and PLO fighters loyal to Mr. Arafat clung to several Maghdousheh strongpoints as bargaining chips in an overall settlement.

In a new bid to halt the fighting, a committee of seven Arab foreign ministers led by Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi is due to meet in Tunis on Jan. 3.

The committee, formed at an extraordinary Arab League session on Monday, may visit Beirut and Damascus, but both the Lebanese and Syrian governments have expressed reservations about its mandate.

An editorial carried by the official Algerian news agency (APS) on Saturday paid tribute to the PLO's role in Lebanon.

Algeria minimised its role, saying in the editorial that it "only did its duty" and paying homage to the "decisive" part played by the PLO in securing the release of French hostage Aurel Comea.

The public thanks given to the Palestinians by French Premier Jacques Chirac after Mr. Comea's Christmas eve release in Lebanon revealed only "the tip of the iceberg" concerning the PLO's role, APS said.

APS said the Palestinian action proved their "will to contribute to the installation of peace in Lebanon," and the "capacity of the Palestinian leadership to engage and succeed in useful dialogue."

It also said that the action showed the "necessity of the Palestinian presence (in Lebanon) as a factor of cohesion and unity."

It said the fifth guerrilla had been captured.

Security forces began sweeping the Wepe district of the northern Transvaal after a farmer spotted a suspicious group of men sleeping under a tree.

In Friday's clash, security forces recovered anti-personnel mines and plastic explosives.

The government has blamed the outlawed ANC, fighting to end white domination in South Africa, for numerous land mine blasts which have killed and injured scores of people. Many mines have been planted on remote border farms.

The latest victim, a 20-year-old white soldier, was seriously wounded this month when he trod on a land mine in eastern Transvaal province.

South Africa has frequently warned neighbouring black-ruled states not to harbour ANC guerrillas. Last May, South Africa launched raids on alleged ANC bases in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia in retaliation for guerrilla attacks.

Moscow defends 1979 Afghan intervention

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia has defended Moscow's decision to send troops into Afghanistan in a commentary coinciding with the seventh anniversary of the intervention.

Izvestia said Soviet troops were sent to Afghanistan on Dec. 27, 1979, in response to a call for help from Kabul in the face of an undeclared war which had been launched long before Moscow responded to the request.

The commentary came amid calls from the West for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops and a negotiated solution to end seven years of conflict between the Afghan government and Western-backed guerrillas (See page 8).

Moscow says its intervention began at the request of Babrak Karmal, who was installed as Afghan leader in December 1979. It says the aim of the limited contingent of Soviet troops has been to thwart outside interference.

According to Western estimates

Captured ANC man kills 2 policemen and escapes

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A captured African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla shot dead two white South African policemen and then escaped, police said Saturday.

A police spokesman said the man was captured on Friday after a gun battle with security forces near South Africa's northern border in which three guerrillas were killed.

As he was being driven to the northern Transvaal town of Messina, the prisoner freed himself, seized a loaded gun and killed the police officers before escaping, he said.

The spokesman said security forces were still hunting for the man, one of a group of five guerrillas which the army said crossed the Limpopo River from Zimbabwe this week to plant mines in South Africa.

In an earlier statement, the South African Defence Force (SADF) said security forces had shot dead a fourth guerrilla on Saturday in the Wepe district of the northern Transvaal.

Iraqi blitz ravages Iran's economy

By Ed Blanche
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iraqi warplanes have left a trail of devastation across Iran in a bombing blitz against vital oil installations and industry.

The Iraqis, who may have appeared dominant in the 6-year war a few months ago, cannot combat the blitz that has damaged Tehran's economy.

Iran has few operational warplanes and, because of a U.S. arms embargo, lacks radar and spare parts for its largely U.S.-made air defences.

"The Iraqis' shopping list (for weapons) and the concentration on spares and hardware for their air defences shows how effective the Iraqi air offensive is," said Don Kerr of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"The offensive has had a dramatic effect on the Gulf War," he said.

The Iraqis have an estimated 650,000 men massed along the 1,180-kilometre front. They are missing the air cover to launch their long-vaunted "final offensive."

Kerr said the Iraqis have only 60-80 operational combat planes, mostly ageing F-4 Phantoms, and F-5s with less than 10 advanced F-14s, their interceptor.

Baghdad has an estimated 500 combat planes, mainly Soviet-supplied. The delivery of French-built Mirage 1 aircraft and missiles late last year gave Iraq a significant technological edge.

"The Iraqis have stamped the whole of the Gulf as their territory and there seems very little the

Iranians can do to stop them," said Kerr. "The Iraqis don't seem to have any plan to hide any more."

"This must have had an immense impact on Iranian morale and on the political situation in Tehran as civilian casualties mount," he added.

President Saddam Hussein unleashed his powerful air force in July after the Iraqis overran part of Iraq's southern Fao peninsula in February.

Since then, the Iraqi warplanes have staged almost daily raids, bombing refineries, oilfields, petrochemical plants, factories, power stations, railroads and bridges as well as military bases.

Iraqi fighter-bombers are hitting tankers in the Gulf carrying Iranian crude south or increasingly, vital refined products north to Iran.

The Iraqis have scored 32 confirmed hits on Iranian tankers this year. Seamen who run the Gulf gamut have dubbed it "exotic alley" after the French-made missile the Iraqis use in their shipping attacks.

Recently, Iraqi planes flew more than 480 kilometres inside Iran to bomb a power plant and other targets in Tehran. It was the first air raid in seven months on the Iranian capital.

Arab diplomats in the Gulf said the Iraqi blitz has been "extremely effective."

"The air strikes have

precipitated serious shortages in electricity, oil products and other necessities in Iran," said a senior Kuwaiti official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Iraqi raids have cut Iran's oil exports from 1.6 million barrels a day in August to half that level.

The Iraqis have shown considerable skill and ingenuity in repairing damaged installations, but have only managed to nudge the export level back to around 1 million barrels a day, oil industry sources reported.

Tehran relies on its oil revenues to pay for the war, which costs an estimated \$7 billion a year.

The fall in exports, along with lower oil prices, has halved Tehran's oil revenue from nearly \$21 million a day to just over \$10 million.

All Iran's refineries have been hit. The Middle East Economic Survey, an authoritative weekly oil digest, said Iran's refining capacity has been cut from 625,000 barrels a day to around 410,000 barrels a day.

The huge Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf has been virtually knocked out in almost daily raids.

Iran has been forced to increase its imports of refined petroleum products, such as kerosene and aviation fuel, to some 300,000 barrels a day because of the air raids, the digest reported.

Iran has had to divert some of its vital oil exports, mainly to Singapore, Spain, Italy and some Gulf states to import petroleum products to make up the shortfall.

The Iraqis were also forced to impose gasoline rationing on Oct.



3 for the first time since the Gulf war broke out in September, 1980.

Iran has bought or chartered a fleet of 25 tankers to shuttle crude from Kharg to makeshift terminals on tiny islands in southern Gulf waters considered beyond the range of Iraqi planes.

However, Iraqis hit the islands in recent weeks.

On Nov. 25, Iraqi fighter-bombers, armed with French-made, laser-guided AS-30 missiles, hit Larak, 1,150 kilometres south in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf.

It was the longest mission flown by the Iraqis in the war. Several days later, Iraqi fighter-bombers hit the huge power station at Neka near the Soviet border in north-west Iran.

These long-range strikes demonstrated how the Iraqis can now strike at just about any target in Iran and Tehran's vital oil jugular through the Gulf.

The Iraqis have been able to retaliate with sporadic air raids and shelling Iraqi towns.

These attacks have terrorised civilians, but done nothing to curb the Iraqi blitz.

Ankara settles for what it can get in deal for American bases

By Paul Bolding
Reuters

ANKARA — Turkey ended a year-long wrangle with the United States over defence aid by settling for considerably less than it had been publicly demanding.

Several newspapers and commentators saw a climbdown in last week's agreement by the two NATO allies to renew their 1980 Defence and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA).

DECA gives the United States air bases, communications and intelligence-gathering facilities, including the Sinop monitoring station on the Black Sea coast which can "hear" radio exchanges inside the Soviet Union and the Belbasi seismic unit near Ankara, which can monitor Soviet nuclear tests.

To renew the agreement, the Turks had been calling for an annual \$1.2 billion in aid and more opportunities to export to the United States.

They will get rather less cash, some second-hand military equipment, and few trade concessions.

The Turks also agreed to renew the accord until December 1990.

instead of for just two years, as they had wanted.

"One more 'yes' to the USA," the daily Cumhuriyet said in a front page headline.

The agreement, it said, "failed considerably to meet the Turkish side's expectations..."

The liberal Milliyet also suggested that Turkey had made too many concessions and Coskun Kirci, a former diplomat writing in Hurriyet, said:

"The government fixed an unattainable target at the beginning of the negotiations..."

A senior Turkish official told Reuters he thought Ankara had got as much as it could from Washington.

"You never get all you want, but Turkey is better off," he said. "We are further on than when we started."

But Cumhuriyet writer Sedat Ergin, who followed the negotiations, told Reuters:

"The Turkish government took a binding commitment on the duration... this is a step backwards."

He said Ankara had wanted to be able to press for a better deal from the next administration in Washington and, knowing that U.S.-Greek defence talks are due

in 1988, position itself to counter any concessions to Athens.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal defended the duration concession at a recent news conference, pointing out that the accord has a clause allowing either side to cancel at 30 days' notice.

Mr. Ozal also announced that Turkey will receive 40 used F-4E Phantom fighter planes to complement 67 already flown by its air force.

Turkish officials said this amounted to around \$200 million of the \$500 million worth of used U.S. defence equipment Washington has offered under new legislation called the Southern Region Amendment. The figure is apparently annual.

Diplomats said they assumed that the Turkish general staff, which played a key role in last week's discussions, had accepted that these planes would fill the gap before completion in the 1990s of a programme to build 152 General Dynamics F-16 fighters in Turkey.

Ergin, however, said the Phantoms were first offered to Mr. Ozal during a visit to Washington in April 1985. "That is nothing new," he said.

Tunisian opposition calls for constitutional change

TUNIS (R) — The head of Tunisia's main recognised opposition party has called for a change in the constitution to ensure there is an election for the eventual successor to President Habib Bourguiba.

Former Defence Minister Ahmad Mestiri, head of the Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS), told the opening of a party congress there should be a vote when the question of succession to the 83-year-old head of state arises.

The constitution states that in

the event of the death or incapacity of the head of state, the prime minister should take over as president until the next scheduled five-yearly general election.

Mr. Mestiri called for the abolition of that part of the constitution. "When the succession question arises, it is the people who will decide," he said.

The three-day MDS congress, the second since the party was formally recognised in 1983, follows an opposition boycott of general elections last November.

Mass held at Rome airport for victims of 1985 attack

ROME (AP) — Nearly 200 people on Saturday took part in a memorial mass at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci airport for the victims of an attack last year that left 16 dead and 70 wounded.

The service took place at the airport chapel, located on the same departure lounge where the four gunmen hurled hand-grenades and sprayed submachine gun fire on Dec. 27 last year.

A simultaneous attack at Vienna's airport claimed four lives.

Among those killed in the Rome attack were three gunmen. A fourth gunman who was injured, 22-year-old Mohammad Sarhan, is under Italian custody awaiting trial. No trial date has been set.

"Life goes on... but we'll never forget what happened a year ago," the Rev. Franco Serfatini, the airport chaplain, said in his homily.

Among those attending the service were airport officials, security guards and airline employees working at the airport.

O'Connor's planned meetings in Israel not changed

NEW YORK (R) — A spokesman for Cardinal John O'Connor has denied reports that the New York archbishop's planned meetings with Israeli leaders had been quashed by the Vatican's representative in Jerusalem.

"We have no information about the trip being cancelled in any way," the spokesman, Monsignor Peter Finn, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He was responding to reports the Vatican representative had asked Cardinal O'Connor to cancel plans for informal meetings with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and President Chaim Herzog. The Vatican does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

In a statement released Friday, O'Connor's office said, "final determination of other visits while in Israel cannot be made until after his arrival."

"However, the cardinal has every expectation and hope of visiting informally with various representatives of the Israeli government and it is certainly his intention to pay a call on Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek."

Cardinal O'Connor's trip may have had its genesis last June following a three-day trip to Lebanon.

In an interview with the New York Times after his visit, Cardinal O'Connor said that from "a moral perspective," there was a need for a homeland for the Palestinians.

Some American Jewish groups criticised the remark and urged Cardinal O'Connor to meet with Mr. Peres, then Israel's prime minister, who was visiting New York.

At the meeting, Mr. Peres invited Cardinal O'Connor to visit Israel, and the archbishop scheduled the Middle East trip, which is set to begin Saturday.

Finn said that there may be changes in Cardinal O'Connor's itinerary because he had to be in Rome no later than the evening of Jan. 5 due to the unanticipated appointment of a new auxiliary bishop for New York, William McCormack.

Peres: Channels open for Middle East peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres says a negotiated solution to the Palestinian problem based on "an equal right to a life of dignity and self-expression" seems more imaginable now.

Mr. Peres also said peace in the Middle East may be closer even though there was no visible progress toward a settlement in 1986.

Although Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were unable to agree on a joint delegation to negotiate with Israel, Mr. Peres said, "the channels opened provide a foundation for future developments, if not breakthroughs."

Mr. Peres, writing in the current edition of Middle East Insight magazine, appealed to Palestinians "who reject terrorism and violence" to seek a political solution.

"You will find us just as determined and steadfast in our efforts to reach a just and honourable solution," he said.

"You will find a nation equally courageous in peace as it is in war."

More than 1 million Palestinian Arabs live under Israeli rule. There was no suggestion in Mr. Peres' article that he would support establishment of state for them. At the same time, he urged the Palestinians to ignore calls for violence, an apparent reference to the PLO.

"Let us converse and negotiate, let us use the force of reason, and not reason with force," he said. "Some of those who claim to speak on your behalf are consistently harming your cause by resorting to terrorism rather than diplomacy, to sloganism and rejectionism rather than to a true political dialogue," he continued.

Turning to the Palestinians, the Israeli foreign minister said they must be allowed to participate in the determination of their future.

"To our Palestinian neighbours we say: We have recognised you as a people with an equal right to a life of dignity and self-expression," Mr. Peres said. "Let us converse and negotiate."

Palestinian stowaway seeks asylum in Spain

LA CORUNA, Spain (R) — A man describing himself as a Palestinian stowaway who jumped ship near this north west port on Wednesday has asked for political asylum in Spain, police said Saturday.

Yani Ili, 24, told police he sailed from Israel earlier this month as a stowaway on an unidentified Greek freighter and jumped ship with the aid of a crew member who provided him with a raft and life jacket.

Shimon Peres

Mr. Peres, who served as prime minister until exchanging jobs earlier this year with Yitzhak Shamir, reiterated his willingness to hold peace talks in an international framework — as Jordan has demanded.

But, Mr. Peres said, the only way to achieve an Arab-Israeli peace is through direct negotiations between a delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians with Israel.

Mr. Peres credited Jordan with a continuing interest in peace, despite the failure to reach agreement with the PLO on a delegation. "We trust nonetheless that Jordan has not despaired of the chances for peace," Mr. Peres said.

"Let us meet and negotiate," Mr. Peres said. "No time is too short, no place too far, no issue excluded, and no form unacceptable."

Turning to the Palestinians, the Israeli foreign minister said they must be allowed to participate in the determination of their future.

"To our Palestinian neighbours we say: We have recognised you as a people with an equal right to a life of dignity and self-expression," Mr. Peres said. "Let us converse and negotiate."

Syria detains Muslim leader in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian troops combating mountain villages in north Lebanon have detained a Muslim fundamentalist leader and four of his followers, police said Saturday.

They said the Syrians withdrew from 10 villages in the remote Akkar region, north of the port city of Tripoli, after a three-day search for Sunni Muslim militants suspected of taking part in street fighting with Syrian troops in Tripoli.

At least 30 people died in last week's clashes, the worst since Syrian forces deployed in Tripoli in October 1985 after Syrian-backed leftist militias assaulted its fundamentalist defenders.

Police said the Syrians Friday night seized Sheikh Hashem Mingara, one of the leaders of the "Islamic Unification Movement (Tawheed)," with four of his men.

Sheikh Mingara, who once controlled Tripoli Harbour for Tawheed, was wounded in an assassination attempt early this year.

Dozens of other Tawheed

members were rounded up in Tripoli last week after Syrian tanks took 36 hours to quell resistance.

Tawheed is a pro-Iranian group also linked in the past with Mr. Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose commanders are currently battling pro-Syrian Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen at five refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

An estimated 25,000 Syrian soldiers are deployed in north and east Lebanon.

TV & RADIO

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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30... Kanan
15:50... Programme review
15:55... Health Cliff
16:20... Children programme
16:45... Young World
17:40... Comedy
18:10... Local Agricultural programme
18:30... Arabic series
19:25... Local programme
19:50... News in Arabic
20:05... News in Arabic
20:30... Arabic series
21:30... Date with a Star (Arabic)
21:55... Telenovela programme
22:00... Local variety programme
23:00... News summary in Arabic
23:15... Close down

PROGRAMME TWO
18:40... La Village dans les nuages
18:50... Catherine
19:00... News in French
19:15... French varieties
19:30... News in Hebrew
20:00... News in Arabic
20:30... "Sory"
21:10... The Story of S.O.E.
22:00... News in S.O.E.
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07:30... Newsday
08:00... Morning Show
10:00... News Summary
10:45... Pop Session
11:00... In Concert
12:00... News Summary
12:45... Pop Session Contd.
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13:05... Pop Session Contd.
14:00... News Bulletin
14:10... Instruments
14:15... Concert Report
15:00... Concert Hour
16:00... News Summary
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16:50... Old Favourites
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Experiments on oil shale samples yield good results

AMMAN (Petra) — Experiments on extracted Jordanian oil shale samples have yielded encouraging and positive results regarding the use of this mineral as an energy substitute, through combustion and/or distillation, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, undersecretary at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said on Saturday.

Dr. Badran, in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said that experiments conducted on the mineral by Chinese and European institutions have shown very good results, especially that Jordan has tens of billions of tonnes of oil shale reserves.

Dr. Badran said that the ministry's study on wind-energy "were very positive" since the prospects of using this substitute for energy generation could be used in a number of the Kingdom's remote areas, such as in the Ras Muall, in Jordan's northern parts.

The ministry, he said, is currently studying the feasibility of making use of disintegration of organic materials, which are used in farms, to provide low-cost energy. He explained that all remains of disintegrated organic materials could be used to generate methane gas to be used in generating energy, and eventually lower the cost of energy for Jordanian farmers.

Dr. Badran expressed hope that the feasibility study on the technical, executional and economic aspects of linking the Jordanian and Egyptian electricity grids "would be positive."

"Linking the two national electricity grids would help Jordan and Egypt in the field of energy cooperation," added Dr. Badran. Jordan was linked with Syria's high electricity voltage grids in 1977, and Dr. Badran said that the link has provided excellent venues of cooperation in electricity between both countries.

Sub-committee expands bus routes, makes new links

By Ahmad Kreishan
Al Ra'i

AMMAN — The Traffic sub-committee Saturday decided to operate public transport buses along the road linking Alia Housing Estate, Marj Al Hamam, 7th Circle, Bayader Wadi Al Seer with the 8th Circle, which will be used as a starting point for this new route.

The sub-committee also decided that the number of buses operating from the area of Raghdan car compound and Abdali car compound to Al Hussein Sport City and the western quarter ending with the Kharrabsh quarter be increased. The sub-committee further decided to increase the number of

cars operating along the routes to the University of Jordan and Marj Al Hamam and to operate buses from Raghdan car compound through Prince Mohammad Street to Wadi Saqra.

The sub-committee took another decision to operate a new bus route linking the Middle East Circle with the University of Jordan passing through Ras Al Ain area.

The sub-committee's decisions were endorsed on Saturday by Amman Governor Ahmad Al Hindawi, Amman Police Director Major General Nassouh Muhieddine, director of Amman Public Works, director of the engineering division at the Amman Municipality and deputy director of the Traffic Department.

Weather front expected to yield showers

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Snowfall is expected Sunday on heights exceeding 1000 metres; the weather will be cloudy and hazy at times with expected scattered showers, meteorology department source said Saturday.

The source said a cold front is expected to cross the region late in the day, leading to gradual increase of clouds and heavy rain in the northern parts of the Kingdom. The rainfall is expected to move gradually to the central regions, accompanied by a tangible drop in temperature, the source told the Jordan Times.

The polar front moved gradually from the Mediterranean coast on Friday and centred to the south of Turkey. The front, which originally came from East Europe, covered most of Greece with thick snow.

Winds speed on Saturday reached over 80 kilometres per

hour, a change which turned the weather rather hazy, causing poor vision at times, the source said.

Public Security Department (PSD) sources on Saturday warned drivers in the southeastern and eastern areas of the Kingdom about poor vision, and urged them to pay extra care in driving on hazardous roads.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, the PSD source said the southern parts of the country would come under sandstorms and thick dust.

On Sunday, the wind is expected to be southwesterly, moderate and fresh at times. Wind speed registered an unprecedented record on Friday when it reached up to 120 kilometres per hour in the desert regions, the meteorology department source said. The source added that severe winds caused hazardous conditions on the roads, a situation which warranted a cessation of traffic on desert roads.

VTC plans to implement scheme to upgrade standards

AMMAN (Petra) — One of the major goals of the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) during its five-year (1986-1990) working plan is to implement a national scheme for organising the vocational standards for industrial professions and to train 30,000 workers in jobs which need average and high-standard working skills.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the VTC Director General Munther Al Masri said that out of the 30,000 students, 20,000 will be trained in the institution's programmes for the high-standard skills specialisation and 10,000 will be getting short-period courses to upgrade their

professional qualifications to the average-skilled workers.

The VTC, which was set up in 1977 said it would establish four new training centres in the Kingdom's areas of Ghor Al Safi, Aqaba, Zarqa and Irbid and will also expand the already existing centres.

Dr. Masri said that his institution's future plans were based on the merits, qualifications and problems of the Jordanian working force which were all affecting the country's labour infrastructure and its size.

He added that there was a qualitative and quantitative shortage of manpower in average working areas and that there was a need in higher professional areas.

Reagan calls furor a disappointment

(Continued from page 1)

Managua's Sandinista government.

Mr. Reagan last month fired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, the National Security Council (NSC) aide who allegedly masterminded the plan, and accepted the resignation of his boss, White House National Security Adviser John Poindexter. But many details of the arms-for-Iran cash-for-contra deal remain locked in the minds of Col. North and Vice-Admiral Poindexter, both of whom invoked their constitutional rights against self-incrimination in appearances before congressional investigating committees.

Mr. Reagan has appealed to them to come forward and tell all they know, but neither so far has given any indication he intends to do so.

Apart from a special

Watergate-style congressional inquiry set to begin early next year, an independent counsel is investigating the scheme.

Mr. Reagan also set up a panel to look into the role and functions of NSC and has chosen a new NSC chief, Frank Carlucci.

Mr. Carlucci has embarked on a major reshuffle of NSC staff and plans to abolish its office of politico-military affairs to which Col. North was assigned.

Mr. Abshire, meanwhile, will be charged with handling all requests from these various inquiries which are expected to be numerous and complex, thereby freeing regular White House staff to get on with other work.

The White House has struggled to coordinate its operations since the Iran controversy broke last month and Republicans in Congress urged Mr. Reagan to appoint a special adviser to handle the issue.



Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi meets Saturday with educational officials and staff in Amman (Petra photo).

Hindawi announces studies to improve educational system

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi announced that studies are currently underway to improve the teachers' financial and economic conditions, and to make teachers salaries equal to those in the other professions.

Speaking during a meeting Saturday at Sukhaina Bint Al Hussein Girls' School attended by educational officials and staff at the Amman education department, the minister said that the nobleness of the educational message makes it incumbent upon educators to adhere to values, and that loyalty and honesty are the major characteristic of educational staff.

Mr. Hindawi also stressed the

importance of a continual dialogue between officials and teaching staff to improve the performance, and overcome the negative practices of the educational process. He also called for finding solutions to educational obstacles, and for benefiting from the latest educational achievements in the world.

Also on Saturday the minister met with officials at the curriculum department, where he called for improvements in the curriculum and books, and for overcoming inflexibility in the system. He also stressed the need for advanced educational technologies and techniques.

Chinese cyclist fulfills dream of world trip

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After many years, Sun Feng of China decided to fulfil his childhood dream of seeing the world. The 38-year old cyclist is beginning a 3-year bicycle journey in which he will visit almost every country in the world.

Sun Feng left his hometown, Chenzhen (near Hong Kong), on Sept. 25 of this year. For the past three months, his route has taken him to Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, South Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. Although Sun Feng has not faced any major difficulties, he said that at times the road and weather were not favourable, and in some places he had language communication problems.

Days spent in each country range from five days to one month. Sun Feng, who arrived in Jordan on Dec. 18, will be staying in the Kingdom until early January. "I've wanted to see Jordan since my childhood when I

read many books about the country and culture," he said. He has spent eight days in Aqaba and plans to visit historical sites during the remaining days.

After Jordan Sun Feng's route will take him to Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Austria, West and East Germany, Denmark, Norway, Holland, France, England. The European part of his journey will take approximately one year, said Sun Feng, after which he will tour the United States for six months. The remaining months will be spent in South America, Australia, Africa and back to Southeast Asia.

His trip is being funded by several companies in Hong Kong, relatives and friends.

Sun Feng hopes that he will be able to achieve something beyond his childhood dream. "I am a teacher and I believe I can gain a lot from seeing different education systems. I hope to write books and articles, and hold lectures when I return to China," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Al Saqqaf family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday delegated Chief of Royal Protocols Fawwaz Abu Tayeh to convey his condolences to the Saqqaf family over the death of the late Abdullah Hashem Al Saqqaf.

Hmoud meets Iraqi ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Al Hmoud Saturday discussed with the Iraqi Ambassador in Amman, Mr. Ghafel Jassem Hussein, the agricultural cooperation between Jordan and Iraq and the means to further develop this cooperation. The minister also received an invitation from the ambassador to take part in the meetings of the 16th session of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development scheduled to be held in Baghdad on Jan. 26.

S. Arabia may not renew contracts

RIYADH (Petra) — Saudi ministry of education has decided not to renew contracts for any of the teachers seconded to Saudi Arabia as of the end of the scholastic year 1986/1987, according to the Middle East News Agency. The agency said that the ministry of education asked all education departments in the various areas of Saudi Arabia to supply it with lists of the names and the specialisations of the seconded teachers whose contracts expire at the aforementioned date. The ministry said that such a measure does not affect those holding personal contracts with the ministry of education even if they are delegated by their respective governments.

Housing Corporation completes 2 projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation has constructed two housing projects at a cost of JD 3,700,000 during the current year. Housing Corporation's sources said on Saturday. The sources added that the projects completed are in Marka and Russeifa. The corporation is currently working on six other projects, costing some JD 81,132,000, in Ma'an, Abu Nusseir in the outskirts of Amman, Irbid and Petra.

Upper House examines '87 budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament's financial committee Saturday held a meeting under the chairmanship of House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and discussed the draft budget law for the year 1987. The meeting was attended by State for Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sami Joudeh, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, and Budget Department Director Ali Gharaibeh. The committee will hold another meeting on Sunday to pursue debate of the draft budget law.

World Bank and EC to finance JD 24 million education projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education announced on Saturday it was cooperating with the World Bank on launching a new educational project which includes setting up and equipping 58 compulsory-stage (elementary) schools throughout the Kingdom with a seat capacity for 55,000 students at a total cost of JD 24 million.

According to the announcement, which was revealed by Barakat Al Tarawneh, director of the projects Department at the Ministry of Education, the World Bank, together with the European Community (EC) will finance the new project. Mr. Tarawneh gave no other details, but said that the World Bank and the EC are presently funding a training scheme, under which a total of 52 teachers were dispatched for vocational training at American and Irish universities.

The Jordan News Agency Petra's interview with Mr. Tarawneh came as part of a general report it conducted on the achievements of the Ministry of Education during 1986. Mr. Tarawneh told Petra that the ministry has just floated a JD 4.3 million tender for purchasing furniture and educational equipment for the Tafleeh

Community College and for other schools which are included in the ministry's fifth educational scheme. He did not mention the number of schools which are part of the project nor the results of the tender.

Director of the ministry's department for buildings and constructions, Abdul Razzaq Al Maani, said his department has embarked on setting up and furnishing a 22-unit housing scheme for teachers in the Kingdom's remote areas of Ma'an, Karak, Aqaba, Jerash and Mafraq, at a total cost of JD 145,000.

Mr. Maani noted that the building of new schools will help the ministry in solving problems related to rented buildings which are used as schools, but do not meet a number of the basic requirements of health and extracurricular activities. He stressed that setting up new public

schools will also help in abolishing the two-tire system at government schools.

Mr. Maani said that a total of 7,034 government teachers were members of the housing fund established in 1980, and that they were contributing a monthly amount of JD 63,000 to the fund. Mr. Maani added that the fund's revenues were being transferred to the Housing Corporation for housing units in Aqaba and Ma'an respectively.

Dr. Ahmad Al Atwan, director of the ministry's department for education and vocational training, said that a total of 34,891 students are currently enrolled in secondary vocational training stages for the scholastic year 1986/1987.

He said that the ministry will, at the beginning of 1987, open 20 new complexes for vocational schools throughout the Kingdom, which are part of the ministry's fifth and sixth education projects. He said that the new vocational training schools include facilities for educating students who are attending vocational training, agricultural, industrial and commercial, and nursing and mid-wifery specialisations. The 20 schools will offer training facilities for a total of 12,450 students. He said that during the 1986-1990

development plan, the ministry will complete and furnish four other vocational training schools throughout the Kingdom.

Dr. Ahmad Hiasat, director of the ministry's department for text books and audio-visual aids, told Petra that his department has just completed surveying and analysing the Islamic education, Arabic language, and social sciences text books for the first three elementary stages. He said that the department has also finalised draft text books for industrial sciences which will be submitted to the Council of Education for further discussion.

The ministry, he said, has also completed the recording of 33 educational television series on educational and scientific subjects. The department of audio-visual aids was following up on the results of introducing computers into a number of the public schools; appraisals are being conducted and training courses for computer instructors are being held.

Mr. Hiasat stressed that his department was closely involved in the educational process at schools in the Israeli-occupied territories and has completed a study on Israeli practices vis-a-vis Arab schools.

Ministry, Arab centre agree to agricultural projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture and the Arab Centre for the Study of Dry Regions and Arid Areas have signed an agreement for preparing studies on agricultural systems.

Under the three-year agreement, the ministry will cooperate with the centre to explore the best agricultural system for exploiting rain fed areas. An assessment is to be made on plants and their contribution to improving land fertility.

The agreement also provides for testing ways to improve wheat and barley crops, and for defining the best cropping system and agricultural techniques. The agreement also provides for the

two bodies to form a national committee to oversee projects and to provide the necessary cadres for running the field work.

Under the agreement, the centre will provide the experts who will supervise work, the equipment, and the use of its laboratories for serving the projects activities. The centre will train the personnel, and evaluate the results of the work, and grant allowances for the national committee members and field cadres, in line with the project budget and in agreement with the ministry.

The agreement also provides that the agricultural products and equipment will revert to the Ministry of Agriculture

Health ministry holds seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh opened a seminar Saturday on health and medical practices organised by the ministry in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Dr. Hamzeh delivered a speech at the beginning of the seminar in which he pointed out that the ministry has exerted itself in the health education field through intensive campaigns.

Dr. Hamzeh also said that sound health planning necessitates statistical information about the nature and degree of health problems, in order to define their causes and to come up with solutions. The minister emphasised the role society could play in addressing health

problems, in defining their causes, and in cooperating to find solutions for them.

A field study conducted by the ministry on mothers who have children below the age of 5 has revealed the existence of malpractice in the combatting of diarrhoea and in vaccinations. The ministry, he pointed out, conducted another complementary study on the practices and trends of health cadres to correct the malpractices.

Dr. Hamzeh thanked the USAID for its continuing support for health education projects. Taking part in the seminar were representatives of a number of ministries and concerned departments.

National archives week exhibition displays large number of old, rare photos of Jordan

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Young handsome men are wearing the long Arabian robes — with swords and daggers fastened to their belts — and lovely head-dresses and some are wearing modern and heavy suits with the chain of their pocket watches dangling from their vest pockets, and fezes (red hats) on their heads. The men's moustaches are well-groomed, some thick and some thin and some turning up at the sides, like they used to do in years past.

Those are old and rare photographs of the young men who are the original founders and vanguards of what is now known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

An exhibition of some one hundred such photographs, dating back to 1920, are on display at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The exhibition, patronised by Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, is organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) to celebrate the national archives week.

The photographs, which will stay on display until the last day of the year, include a large number of pictures of the late King Abdullah in different activities. In one of them, the then Prince Abdullah, is posing for a picture with Winston Churchill and Mrs. Churchill in 1921.

Others show the late King in official occasions — inspecting the Arab Legion, playing chess in Turkey, riding through old Amman on his Arabian horse, opening a water project in Jerash, receiving the late Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali (King Abdullah's father), and also visiting the Italian

Hospital. There are rare photos of King Abdullah with his son, the late King Talal when he was a young boy.

Amman was like a countryside in the beginning of the century. A lot of greenery, rivers, hardly any motor cars, very few buildings, no crowds, empty streets with horses here and there. The exhibition's photos portray the men giving the impression that they were men in the real sense of the word. They hold themselves high, and their dark Arab faces show strength and endurance.

A major section of the displayed photographs show a large number of important figures in Palestine and Jordan. There are some well-preserved portraits of high-ranking officers from the 1920's to the 1940's. There are also several pictures that show the first government hospital, the first eye doctor, Dr. Jamil Tutunji, and the first government surgeon, Dr. Youssef Izziddin.

The pictures on exhibition are just some of the collections that the DLDNA has in its archives. The department, an arm of the Ministry of Information, has over 50 different collections of photographs and historical documents related to Jordan and Palestine.

The oldest collection, which includes pictures taken by a man named Bonfils, is from the Semitic Museum at Harvard University in Boston. The collection shows sites of Jordan from over 100 years ago.

Another old collection is from The Netherlands of pictures of Jordan and Palestine from 1900 to 1927. There are also documents and pictures of Greater Syria and Hijaz from the time of the Ottoman era.

The Hashemite collection is one



The prime ministry building near Saqf Al Seil street (downtown Amman) in 1937 (DLDNA photo)

of the largest at DLDNA, where documents from the Great Arab Revolt and the early years of the Emirate of Transjordan can be found in the form of letters written by King Abdullah and Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali. There is also a large number of rare photographs of the Hashemite family.

For the past eight years — and during the last week of each December — the DLDNA holds its annual national archives week. This tradition was followed by a decision taken by the International Council of Archives (ICA), of which DLDNA is a member, to dedicate the last week of each year to such activities.

According to the director-general of DLDNA, Dr. Ahmad Sharkas, the motive of the department and its annual activities is to "emphasise the importance of records and archives in the life of the nation and to create political, historical, and social thought based on consistent objectives and scientific basis, and to serve mainly researchers."

Dr. Sharkas called on people to bring in any old photographs and/or documents to the DLDNA in order to recondition and preserve them. The original copy with a new print may be kept with the owner, and the department keeps a copy in the archives.

"The value of the archives is not restricted to administrative and legal aspects alone, but also extends to assert the cultural identity of the nation and the people," Dr. Sharkas said.

The national archives week's activities include complete media coverage on the importance of old records.

In addition to the photo exhibition, where members of parliament, ministers, foreign diplomats, and professors at the University of Jordan attended the opening on Saturday, a symposium will be held at the RCC studio theatre at 4 p.m. on Tuesday. Dr. Suhaila Rimawi, a history professor at the University of Jordan, and Mr. Ahmad Anani, a writer, will speak on the cultural role of historical documents.



Petra in 1932 (DLDNA photo)



An army parade at Al Mahatta in 1933 (DLDNA photo)

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Will the private sector achieve an economic miracle?

THE revitalisation of the private sector does not and should not mean dismantling the public sector. In a developing economy like ours, the public sector is instrumental as a leader, and has a major role to play, but it should not be allowed to edge out the private sector or prevent it from performing its equally important role.

Perhaps what we need is to draw the line and define the duties and responsibilities of the limits of its authority to interfere and prevent the market forces from functioning to improve the efficiency of the economy.

The privatisation of public sector institutions is meaningless until we have a free market economy, where prices of services and commodities, interest on loans and deposits, exchange rate of foreign currencies, rents of houses and offices, scales of salaries and wages are decided by supply and demand.

There is no doubt that our first economic miracle was achieved through the public sector. Since the public sector is now running out of steam, we have no alternative except to plan for a second economic miracle to be achieved through the private sector.

Free market economy is sometimes a matter of choice based on

merits and sometimes an unavoidable necessity due to inability of the public sector to continue shouldering all the responsibilities.

A prudent economist will normally opt for free market economy because it is the simplest and best known automatic instrument to properly allocate resources, optimise returns, maximise utility, and guarantee a higher level of efficiency.

Politicians sometimes prefer to put emphasis on the public sector. That means they can spend more public money, make decisions and enjoy more power and influence.

The centralised economy gives them the power of the purse (money) and the power of the pen (signatures).

The battle for strength between the public sector and the private sector was not resolved on merit basis. Pro-private sector spokesmen stress efficiency, while public sector defenders emphasise justice.

Admittedly, the battle for a private sector was never won. The governments were always paying lip service to free initiative and the private sector activity while busy creating big government and practising interference.

However, if the choice did not work, the necessity may soon take

centre stage. The public sector is not able to come up with sufficient funds to finance subsidies of every kind, cover up inefficiency and build white elephant undertakings.

The artificial prosperity led by the public sector and centralised economy was possible due to the influx of external aid and available credit. Both sources are drying up or becoming less available and more costly.

It is not a matter of choice but of necessity that now we have to discover the virtues of free market, and try to make the private sector the real engine for future sustainable growth, as the public sector engine is running out of fuel.

It is fortunate that the present government is committed to the private sector to the extent of willingness to experiment with privatisation of certain public institutions. However the major move have no chance of success unless and until supported by public opinion. Civil servants have also to be retrained to change their attitudes and orientation, otherwise they can block the process and slow down the government's workings.

Hollow words from Peres

IN the latest issue of the Middle East Insight magazine, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres writes that Israel recognises the Palestinians as a people having an equal right to life, dignity and self-expression, and that based on this a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem is now more imaginable. In the same article Mr. Peres maintains that the only way to achieve peace is through empowering a delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians to enter into direct negotiations with Israel. He also expresses his willingness to hold peace talks in an international framework.

It will be recalled that Mr. Peres was the prime minister of Israel up until two months ago, and one would have wished that he was as forthcoming in his actions and as supportive of the cause of peace then as he suggests now in his words. The proposal to hold an international peace conference has been on the table for a few years now, and the whole world knows that it is Israel which has been doing everything possible to frustrate the chances of convening such a conference. It was only a few weeks ago that the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution in favour of accelerating the process leading to an international conference. However, Israel and the U.S. were at the forefront in voicing their objections to that resolution, and they also made sure that most of the Western bloc countries at least abstained from voting on it.

With this in mind, one wonders whether Mr. Peres is wearing the foreign minister's cap or he is reflecting on an era when he was wearing the prime minister's hat. Doesn't he remember that it was Israel that has added difficulties in the way of convening a peace conference by linking any Soviet participation in it with the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union?

Mr. Peres might also recall that it was during his premiership that Israel insisted that it should choose the representatives of the Palestinians who could attend the proposed conference in the context of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Now if the Israeli government genuinely recognises the Palestinian people and wishes to accord them the right to life, dignity and self-expression, how could he in the same breath want to choose for the Palestinians their representatives? How could any political group exercise self-expression if it cannot even name the persons who would negotiate on its behalf?

By comparing what the Israeli government says to what it does on the ground, one cannot but conclude that its aims are indeed devious. While pretending that it is interested in advancing the cause of peace, Israel wastes no time in pulling the rug from under the peace process before it even has the chance to stand up on its own feet.

Instead of spreading false propaganda about Israeli good intentions and desire for peace, Mr. Peres should reflect on the violence and intimidation that the Israeli troops have inflicted on the Palestinians in the last few weeks. The killing of teenage students is certainly no way to accord the Palestinians their right to self-expression and equality of life.

It is not right for Mr. Peres to ask the Palestinians to renounce terrorism, when it is incumbent on his government itself to practise some of its own medicine and begin to treat the Palestinians in a dignified manner in order to create conditions favourable for eradicating terrorism from all sides.

The record of the Palestinian problem is clear and wide open. The Arab side has been attempting to reach an honourable peace settlement for many years now, and we certainly reject the assumptions and the innuendos in Mr. Peres' article that the Arab side has been at fault in rejecting peace overtures and that Israel was the spotless dove ever searching for peace in earnest. This is simply a travesty of truth.

If the Israeli government is indeed sincere in seeking peace with the Arabs it can start by matching its words with its actions at the very least. Short of that the Israelis will continue to spread falsehoods that would in no way bring this region any closer to peace and stability.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A timely reminder for Iran

THE victory that Iraqi forces have won on Thursday against invading Iranian forces should prompt the Tehran regime to reconsider its miscalculations which always tempt them to continue their war against Iraq. These miscalculations were, and still are, the reason behind all military and economic losses Iran has so far sustained. Despite these hard lessons, Tehran rulers did not learn and did not want to grasp opportunities for achieving an honourable peace. They are still dreaming of achieving a military victory. It is no longer a secret that beneficiaries of American arms sales to Iran and the powers behind the initiation of the fighting between the two neighbours are working closely with Iran and are encouraging Tehran leaders to continue the futile war against Iraq. This simply means that those, the actual beneficiaries of the Iran-Iraq war, contribute to fuelling all attempts aimed at ending the war and achieving a just peace between them. It is natural that such beneficiaries will continue to urge Tehran leaders to pursue their war against Iraq and try to convince Tehran rulers that victory will be achieved in another round of fighting. Iraq, which repulsed the Iranian attack on Thursday, has always offered to sit with Iran and to arrive at a peaceful solution to the ongoing war between the two Muslim countries. Certainly, Iraq's victory over the Iranians will not change the Iraqi position, which is based on achieving a peaceful end to the fighting and working for achieving it. The response to the noble Iraqi position remains the responsibility of Tehran rulers.

Al Dustour: Another mark in Iraqi history

THE new Iraqi victory on Thursday against Iranian armed forces is another mark in the record of bravery and courage charted by the Iraqi armed forces. While being proud and happy at the honourable stand of the Iraqi armed forces, we believe that this Iraqi victory should act as an incentive for every Arab citizen to extend every possible support to Iraq and block the Iranians from pressing ahead with their hostile plans against Iraq and the Arab Nation. While congratulating the Iraqi people on this new victory, we are fully confident that our nation is capable of achieving such victories, and are capable of repulsing and crushing future attacks. We are confident that Iraq will continue to be the lofty castle of the Arab Nation, and will not surrender to Iranian terror.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iranian facade

WITH the year 1986 about to finish, the Iranian regime has started new attacks against Iraq, revealing what the Iranian regime has in mind for the new year 1987. While the Iraqis were announcing that they had crushed the Iranian attackers and when the Iranians realised that their long-expected attack was a total failure, they planned a hijacking operation for an Iraqi plane which was carrying passengers from Baghdad. The aim of the operation, as the information says, is to cover up for the great losses Iran sustained in the battlefield. However, the fate of their air operation was almost the same of their overland attack. Iraq has always stretched its hand for peace with Iran and expressed hope for securing an end to the war with Iran, but the Iranian position has always been stubborn and intransigent. In fact the Iranian regime position has failed despite all support extended to it by the United States and Israel. The reason, of course, is the internal unity of the Iraqi people and the courageous leadership of the country, which translates the historical depth of the unique case of their country. The Iranian bloodshed in the fighting will remain a loud cry in the face of Tehran's rulers.

Bargaining for hostages remains option for U.S., according to American 'experts'

By Christopher Hanson

Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan is under fierce attack for breaking his word and negotiating with Iranians branded here as "terrorists," but some security experts say bargaining and ransom-payments - remain U.S. policy options.

"The best policy is one of flexibility and ambiguity," Robert Kupperman, a former White House counter-terror official now with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, told Reuters.

Reagan's popularity has plummeted in the aftermath of revelations that the White House secretly sold arms to Iran, which Washington has publicly denounced as a "terrorist" state.

Three U.S. hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon were released during the 18-month operation, which Democrats and some Republicans in Congress have denounced as a bid to pay ransom, in the form of

weapons, for hostages.

An anonymous senior official told the New York Times this week that Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey had written a memo explicitly terming the operation and arms-for-hostages swap. The White House said it was not aware of such a memo.

Ex-White House National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, who served as a secret envoy to Iran, has said he urged the operation because he believed it had become a ransom effort.

Reagan denies the arms were ransom, insisting they were sent to help end hostility with a strategic country by opening channels to "moderates," but he has cancelled further sales.

Many critics have denounced Reagan for dealing with Iran at all, but Kupperman and other analysts, including some within the government, insist this sort of bargaining is at times a painful necessity — a technique which must be included with options

such as armed reprisals, increased security measures, intelligence penetration of guerrilla groups, and diplomatic and economic pressure on governments which back guerrilla violence.

The analysts argue some countries, including France, have bargained successfully for their hostages without destroying their national dignity or foreign policy influence.

France denies it has paid ransom to secure release of citizens held by pro-Iran groups in Lebanon. French hostage Aurel Cornea was freed by his guerrilla captors in Lebanon on Christmas Eve, leaving 18 foreigners still missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon, including Americans, French nationals, Britons, an Italian and a South Korean.

Western diplomats say a French agreement last month to pay back \$330 million loaned by Tehran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution was apparently a tradeoff for release of French hostages.

The French government denied recent newspaper reports it paid about \$2 million for release of other hostages.

Security experts say the Reagan administration made two basic mistakes in its own Iran dealings.

First, it stated emphatically and repeatedly that "we will not negotiate with terrorists" — a rigid declaration which, the analysts say, was unrealistic and left Reagan open to charges of deceit when the Iran sales were exposed.

Second, the administration went ahead with arms deliveries although it failed to get ironclad guarantees all U.S. hostages would be released and no more would be seized.

"(The) bargaining appears to me to have been hopelessly incompetently conducted by our side," Washington Post columnist Meg Greenfield wrote recently.

"With our say-one-thing-do-another policy, (we have) been made to appear suckers to Iranians, and hypocrites, liars and phonies to everyone else."

Broader questions unfolding on contra link

By Barry Schweid

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It may turn out that laws were violated in the secret U.S. arms deliveries to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels. But focusing on legalities, or even on how much President Ronald Reagan may have known about what was going on, may mean missing a larger point.

What appears to preoccupy Congress, the press and perhaps large segments of the public is the initial judgment that prompted the decision to try to improve relations with Iran and free U.S. hostages by providing arms to so-called moderates in Tehran.

The decision was the president's. The National Security Council staff implemented it. Secretary of State George Shultz, who opposed the initial decision, questioned the wisdom of appearing to negotiate with a government accused of

sponsoring terrorism. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has raised several provocative questions.

"How can we contribute to ending a war on an equitable basis by supplying arms to the side that has the upper hand and whose victory would undermine all moderate forces in the Muslim world?" he asked.

"Did anyone... describe to the president the damage that would result to U.S. credibility worldwide... from the inevitable disclosure that the United States had acted in flat contradiction of its own passionately declared antiterrorism policy?" he said.

Similarly, the key questions to be asked about the contra fund relate to the policy behind aiding the anti-Sandinista guerrillas.

The debate is centered on whether Reagan ordered the fund set up — he insists he did not — and whether he knew what Oliver North of the National Security Council staff was doing.

Since Congress had forbidden U.S. arms assistance to the rebels at the time the operation was taking place, a serious legal issue is involved.

But beyond that narrow point are larger questions about Reagan's foreign policy objectives.

Are vital U.S. interests at stake in Nicaragua, requiring a commitment of American weapons or even non-lethal aid to the rebels?

Is Reagan's objective to moderate the Sandinista government's policies towards its citizens?

Is the president trying to force a power-sharing arrangement between the Sandinistas and the contras?

Or is Reagan seeking to overthrow the government in Managua?

Congress debated some of these questions before the contra fund was revealed. The answers it came up with were mixed.

Table Mountain—a symbol of South Africa's racial zoning

By Ruth Pitchford

Reuters

CAPE TOWN — The flanks of Table Mountain, South Africa's best-known landmark, have once again become a focal point of the racial zoning that dictates where people live on the basis of their skin colour.

Driving round the flat-topped mountain, motorists enter a eerie wasteland just above central Cape Town. The only remaining buildings are mosques and churches, spared by the bulldozers that destroyed the houses 20 years ago.

This is district six, empty since the government cleared out the varied population, divided the people along racial lines and dispersed them to other areas.

Below district six another multi-racial community has evolved in the theoretically "white-only" neighbourhood of Woodstock.

BP (British Petroleum), one of the multi-national companies resisting anti-apartheid pressure to pull out of South Africa, has now offered 50 million rand (\$22 million) to renovate district six as an area open to all races.

But Pretoria, which says it is striving to dismantle apartheid racial segregation, has not taken up the offer. BP's plan was "not within the terms of the law at present," it said.

The government, anxious not to upset white right-wingers who approve of racial zoning, has dashed hopes among the non-white majority of an early easing of the group areas act.

The cabinet has told the advisory president's council to think again about plans for reforming the act.

Meanwhile President P.W. Botha, who as a minister had charged of moving out district six's largely coloured (mixed-race) residents, has suggested rezoning Woodstock for coloureds only.

None of the myths which portrayed district six as a haunt of gangsters and artists have grown up around Woodstock. Mixed in affluence as well as race, its streets link smartly-renovated cottages with near-dilapidated shacks.

Its residents, classified white, coloured, Asian and black, say crime is not a problem and racial tension non-existent.

"I've lived here 40 years," one white man, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. "I'm safe to go in and come out whatever time I like. There are no problems. I won't move."

Coloured people — some evicted from district six — saw no reason why their white neighbours should suffer the same fate. "Why must they change it? We don't even notice who's white and who's coloured," one young woman said.

The "open Woodstock" campaign says 674 of about 1,000 people living in the area signed its petition against the rezoning plan, which it has handed to a government inquiry into the area's future.

Lincoln Stadler, 42, lives in a multi-racial street and helped with the petition. Like most people Reuters questioned in

Woodstock, his political views are far from radical.

White opposition politicians say Botha has shelved the president's council plans to reform the group areas act, which segregates living areas, for fear of an ultra-right backlash in a general election for whites which they expect next April.

Stadler sympathises with Botha. "He's fighting a very hard battle (with the right)," he said. "We're not against him. But we don't think he's living up to these things he says (pledging further apartheid reform) on television. He's making a big mistake about Woodstock."

Stadler believes suburbs that want to stay white should do so. "But you want to leave a few places where people already know how to live together. Let Woodstock become an example."

His neighbour Patsy Roberts, classified coloured, had to buy her home in the name of her white common-law husband because the area was classified white.

They have lived together for 14 years, a relationship that was illegal until Botha scrapped apartheid laws on inter-racial sex and marriage last year. "Now, she says, if the area is zoned coloured, her man "will definitely want to stay with me and I won't move."

Sources in Botha's National Party say that privately he fought the flattening of district six, going along reluctantly with the party caucus's decision to call in the bulldozers.

Since then Botha has brought coloureds — many of them part

descended from his Afrikaner community and speaking a dialect of its Dutch-based language — into parliament.

But anti-apartheid organisations boycotted the coloured elections because the black majority was still excluded from elections — and they have given BP's plan for district six a similar response.

They dismiss BP's push for reform of the group areas act as a publicity stunt. They want the act scrapped altogether.

The strength of feeling among coloured people, evicted from district six and dispersed in new townships out of the city, has made white businesses loath to take up the prime sites offered by the cleared land for fear of protests.

As a symbol of this resistance, Christians and Muslims still keep alive some of the religious buildings which could not be by law be demolished by the government bulldozers.

BP South Africa's chairman Ian Sims wrote in the company's annual social report: "Every Capetonian I know would welcome the rebirth of district six."

But the anti-apartheid Salt River, Woodstock and Walmer Estate Residents' Association dismissed BP's gesture as a public relations gimmick. It said: "The declaration of district six as a 'white group area' caused untold suffering to thousands... No amount of public relations can undo the effects of this crime against humanity."



LETTERS

Engineering employment

To the Editor:

TO fight the critical unemployment problem among civil engineers, and in particular those with no or little work experience, I suggest a few steps, which if implemented, would contribute to the many steps already taken by the government to combat unemployment, and especially among professionals.

I would firstly suggest the introduction of a career advice service in schools, and at an early stage, to advise students, who are enthusiastic to pursue their careers as engineers or doctors, to divert their interests to other career opportunities for which there is a greater demand in our society. A more drastic step is to limit the number of students studying civil engineering each year for the coming few years. This would not only be beneficial to the students themselves, but to the society in general in the long run. It is an established fact that the ratio of civil engineers to the country's work force is greater than that of America or in Europe. Our job market is oversaturated with civil engineers, and some measure to decrease the number of newly graduated civil engineers would be a step in the right direction; doubtless it would be helpful to stabilise the situation, and gear it towards a healthier state of supply and demand.

Those steps would be a means to limit the future number of civil engineering graduates who would, when coming to the market for the first time, face what would then be an even greater unemployment problem.

However, to combat the present situation, I suggest that the Jordan's Engineers Association take a greater and more active role in the search for a solution. Primarily, it should require all newly graduated civil engineers do a one-year obligatory training work. This, if supported by both the public and private sectors, would be most beneficial. This was very wisely demonstrated by the decision taken by the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to take on engineer-trainees for one year periods, offering them the much needed on-the-job training. If we turn to the private sector, we find that engineering companies, as well as contractors, are classified by the MPW according to their capabilities to occupy jobs. If each of these companies takes on a certain number of trainees, the number being dependent on its size and on its classification, that would contribute positively to solving the problem.

All engineers should be fitted into such training schemes through the Engineers Association, which should be responsible for ensuring a basic salary for each trainee not less than that paid by the public sector, i.e. JD120.

For permanent or semi-permanent jobs, I suggest that all agreements between employer and employee be made in the form of a legally-binding contract, to protect both, and in particular, the employee who needs job security to be more productive. I also suggest that the Engineers Association propose a salary scale which takes into account academic qualifications, as well as years of experience. This would give a minimum salary for each scale.

With a growing need for the establishment of practice codes, design and maintenance manuals, and the like, either the Ministry of Public Works or the JEA or both should establish an office entrusted with producing this enormous and necessary work; such office could employ the services of unemployed engineers, and by "setting it up" job opportunities could be created and the useful manuals done.

Nariman Khoury,
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Frustration and dissension prevail in 10-month Palme assassin hunt

By Lars Foyen
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden is clamouring for results in the 10-month hunt for the assassin of Prime Minister Olof Palme. The chief investigator says he knows who conspired to kill the leader. Prosecutors say they are not so sure.

Palme, 59, a charismatic four-term Socialist prime minister and champion of disarmament and Third World causes, was shot in the back Feb. 28 on Sveavägen, one of Stockholm's busiest thoroughfares.

Palme, who occasionally dismissed his bodyguards to walk unguarded in the capital, was walking with his wife Lisbet after a late movie.

Every day for 10 months, people have placed red roses on the pavement where Palme was slain.

And every day, scores of policemen press their search for the assassin who fired the .357-caliber Magnum bullet. But there has been no solution to Sweden's most sensational murder case despite the country's biggest manhunt.

Hans Holmer, the Stockholm police commissioner who heads the investigation, has recently been urged to step down by the national prosecutor and other officials who criticise a lack of progress in the investigation.

Holmer, 56, who said he believes he knows who conspired to kill Palme, dismissed his critics in a December interview, his first with Swedish journalists in four months.

"We are 95 per cent certain we are on to the right lead... it would be cowardly and irresponsible to step down at this stage," he said on a television news programme.

"The police have for three months been saying, 'soon it will be over, soon it will be over,' chief prosecutor Claes Zéme countered in a Dagens Nyheter newspaper interview.

"They haven't asked the prosecutors. And they know we don't share that view," Zéme said.

Police spokesman Leif Hallberg told the Associated Press that investigators are concentrating on a "main lead." And he said they are trying to assemble sufficient evidence against a group of people "with links to both Sweden and other countries."

However, he said on television that police do not yet know "who



Olof Palme (1927-1986) ... ten months after the respected Swedish leader was shot dead in a Stockholm street police are no nearer to solving the crime.

actually pulled the trigger." All Swedish national newspapers claim Holmer's main lead includes members of the Kurdish Workers Party, a Marxist organisation that seeks to set up a separate state in southeastern Turkey.

The Palme government sentenced two men with alleged links to the party to life in prison for the killing of two people who left the party in Sweden. It also classified the party as a terrorist organisation.

Holmer has refused to comment on the reports. A spokesman for the Kurdish Workers Party denied the party had any involvement in the assassination.

There was speculation the arrests of five Kurds in mid-December would provide a break in the case. Investigators interrogated the men and searched their homes and a Kurdish cultural centre along the assassin's presumed escape route.

But after four of the five Kurds were released, Holmer denied any link. "They have nothing to do with each other. We continue working as we have done before," he said.

A police reconstruction, based on accounts from 40 witnesses, said the killer followed the Palmes down the street and shot the premier at point-blank range.

The killer, described as about 183 cm tall and 40 years old, grazed Mrs. Palme's back. As she knelt over her dying husband, the killer fled on foot up a darkened side street.

Holmer, writing in the Stockholm newspaper Expressen,

said that the first police car arrived at the site two minutes later. The killer was probably 400 metres away by then, he said, a lead the police have been trying to make up for ever since.

"Looking for a fleeing killer in the first hours is like looking for the needle in the haystack. You don't even know in what haystack to look," he wrote.

An average of 150 police officers have worked on the case, investigating 30,000 and have questioned 9,000 people, police say.

The only known tangible results so far: two bullets found by bystanders shortly after the slaying, and the "lead" Holmer talks of.

A lack of concrete police information has led to speculation in newspapers.

Groups mentioned at one time or other in press reports include some terrorist or separatist organisations, foreign intelligence agencies or secret police, right-wing religious sects and neo-Nazi organisations.

Two weeks after the assassination, police arrested a 33-year-old Swede with a record of anti-Communist activity. He was held for a week before being released.

Prosecutor K.G. Svensson later left the Palme investigation after accusing Holmer of conducting a "prejudicial investigation" against the man. Holmer said in December that police were no longer interested in the man.

Some top detectives have also left the investigation, reportedly because of friction with Holmer. Holmer denied reports of internal strife. The detectives, he said on television, quit after it was shown they had leaked information to a newspaper.

Scores of newspaper editorials have expressed alarm at the state of the investigation.

But Holmer's position appeared assured, at least for the time being. Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson expressed confidence in his work.

Holmer has said the investigation is not only a manhunt but also a "matter of state." The stakes are high for the state.

If he catches the killer, he will be a national hero. If not, he may be remembered as the policeman who had every national law enforcement resource at his disposal and yet failed to solve the most sensational murder case in modern Sweden.

Video window on a British way of life

How do you sell green Wellington boots to high-earners? How can schoolchildren in the south of the U.K. learn how their northern counterparts live? What would be the contents of a medieval chest of drawers? The BBC may have the answers, says John Chittock.

LONDON — If broadcasters ever imagined that television was only a medium for the mass audience — passive fireside victims of programme controllers — then the BBC is showing just how wrong the television industry can be. The BBC has launched its much-awaited Domesday video discs — two years and £2.5 million (\$3.55 million) after this extraordinary project was first announced.

For the video disc as a medium, and interactive video as a technology, it is an important milestone. There have been those who have doubted the prospects for such broadcasting techniques and others who have tired of waiting for a major practical breakthrough.

The broad details of the Domesday project have been well publicised: two video discs which provide a contemporary social and economic record of Britain, accessible as still pictures, movies, text, maps and sound tracks. This vast multi-media library was made possible by the cooperation of 14,000 schools across Britain — which provided photographs and information about their own communities — as well as a host of national organisations ranging from the Ordnance Survey to the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

With the BBC system, the user can start with an Ordnance Survey map of Britain displayed on the TV screen and can choose, with a manually-controlled electronic marker, any region about which information is required. Closer scale maps of the U.K. can be "called up" until — at a scale of one inch to one mile — a village, town, river or area of countryside can be selected. Thereafter, all manner of information on that place can be obtained.

For example, entries on villages and towns may display information ranging from photographs of the local vicarage to the relative cost of local authority rates. Using the associated BBC Acorn micro-computer, information of the latter type can be permuted into new displays, drawing upon the disc's vast data store which includes the main results of the 1981 population census, other national surveys such as family

expenditure, sets of weather pictures, and photographs showing the architecture, environment and general "feeling" of areas.

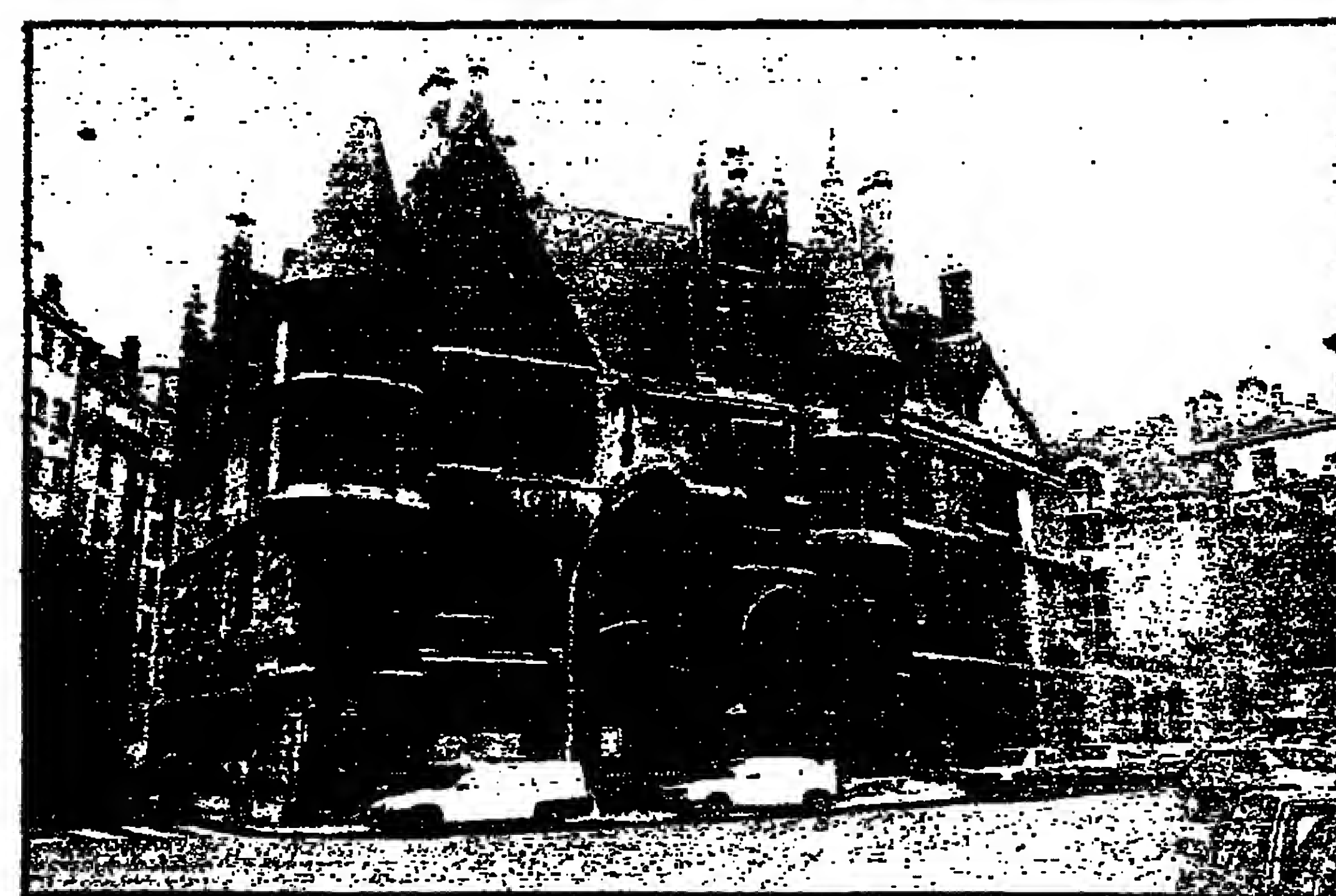
Thus a market researcher wishing to sell green Wellington boots to the highest income groups, in the wettest areas, with the flattest countryside, has a real prospect of tracking down the appropriate information. Perhaps less improbably, teachers will be able to give pupils a real insight into far-off regions — showing Sussex schoolchildren what life in the North is actually like, what the unemployment situation is and how people spend their leisure time.

One of the many innovations in the Domesday discs is the Picture Gallery. This is a graphic representation of an art gallery, with the displayed pictures on its walls each used as a pictogram for a whole menu of information. The viewer can move the electronic cursor — using a trackball or "mouse" — apparently to travel through the gallery, inspecting the pictures or going on into other rooms. At any time where a picture shows a subject in which the viewer is interested, it can be selected to reveal a whole bank of information on that theme: ecology, industry, transport and so on.

In another use of this so-called "surrogate travel" facility, the viewer is taken visually through a typical village and allowed to explore details which exemplify the local culture. Thus a farmhouse to the right of lane can be "entered" so that the furnishing of living room are revealed — even the idiosyncratic contents of an open drawer at a desk can be seen.

The Domesday discs are thus of historical importance, like their parchment predecessor, as well as serving very contemporary education, industrial, social and even political purposes (no local party election agent should be without the system!).

Statistics about the two double-sided video discs cannot reasonably convey the complexity of information available — literally at the user's fingertips. — Financial Times feature.



The mansion of the Archbishops of Sens that houses the library of craftsmen

Paris Library of craftsmen in its 101st year

By Nadine Gautier

PARIS — Since 1929, the Forney Library has been housed in the very beautiful mansion of the Archbishops of Sens, built at the end of the 15th century in the heart of the Marais quarter of Paris. This library, which was created for the education of young craftsmen, had seen the light of day on the 28th February 1886, on the initiative of Samuel-Aime Forney, a wood dealer who had bequeathed 20,000 francs to the city of Paris for this purpose. At that time, the municipality of Paris was trying to create lending libraries, free of charge and open

to everybody, in each district of the capital, with the aim of encouraging the common people to educate themselves. With the Forney bequest, the Paris Council decided to create a specialised library, where craftsmen could come to inform themselves, draw, and borrow books and models. The Forney Library, which was originally situated in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine, quickly became the haunt of craftsmen and apprentices, and the library's stock soon became enriched with samples of printed cloth and wallpaper. The principles, according to which library still works, were quickly set up. One

could read there, or borrow books to take home. Information was provided in the form of pictures and the public was widely welcomed. In 1929, when the premises in the Rue Tilsot had become too small and the city of Paris had acquired the former mansion of the Archbishops of Sens, the library moved there. Today, the Forney library figures among the big Paris libraries, although it is still young, despite being a hundred, compared to the Bibliothèque Nationale which is six centuries old, the Sainte-Genevieve Library, three centuries old, and the Arsenal Library, two centuries old.



The lecture hall of the library of craftsmen

Swindlers cashing in on new American immigration regulation

By Cam Rosie

MONTEREY, Mexico — The new U.S. immigration law won't keep undocumented Mexicans out of the country, but it has created a new source of income for swindlers, say critics of the law in northern Mexico's three largest cities.

"The black market for forged documents is booming, mostly in the United States but also with agents in the Mexican border cities," said Jorge Bustamante, director of the Tijuana-based Colegio de la Frontera Norte, a research institution.

The new U.S. law is a response to widespread concern in the United States over the millions of illegal immigrants — many of them from Mexico — in the country. Some U.S. officials have charged that the immigrants are taking jobs away from Americans and burdening the welfare system.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service estimated at the end of October that apprehensions of illegal aliens were running at a record 1.8 million this year.

But officials estimate that for each person captured, two or three others get through — some of whom have crossed the border several times. No-one knows how many illegal aliens are in the U.S., but estimates run in the millions.

The legislation signed Nov. 6 by President Ronald Reagan seeks to

contain the flow of illegal immigrants by penalising U.S. employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers and by increasing the Immigration and Naturalisation Service budget.

Under the law's "amnesty" provision, aliens who have lived in the United States since before Jan. 1, 1982, are eligible for permanent resident status.

Bustamante said the law has created "a new industry of so-called lawyers," unscrupulous individuals who tell unsuspecting Mexicans they can "fix things for a fee."

These individuals offer to forge the documents required for work in the United States and to "help" others through the amnesty proceedings by providing documents purportedly showing they have lived in the United States since before 1982. The "so-called lawyers" charge fees ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, he said.

Mexican newspapers have complained that the new law could lead to the deportations of millions of Mexicans living illegally in the United States.

The mayor's office in Ciudad Juarez, just south of El Paso, reports the only noticeable sign that the U.S. law has been enacted is "a bombardment" of radio and newspaper advertisements sponsored by people offering services to undocumented workers.

"There are many frauds of this kind. Professionals promise to fix papers for people. They say it's very easy. But they're deceiving the people," said Mario Trejo, spokesman for Mayor Jaime Bermudez.

He said, however, "the people continue crossing just the same as always. The law exists only in the mind right now."

Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda expressed the federal government's objections to the law in a report in late November to the Mexican senate.

"It concerns us very especially that in the execution of the law, human, labour or social rights of Mexican immigrants could be affected," he wrote.

Bustamante says the U.S. law has served to appease North Americans worried about illegal immigration.

"The American public is now less apprehensive," he said. "There is a certain feeling that things are now back in control or on the way to being controlled."

He said, however, that "in a few years, people will change their cry from 'we have lost control of our borders' to 'we have lost control of our documents.'"

Statistics gathered by the Colegio de la Frontera Norte show that on the average, undocumented workers who were able to get a job in the United States did so on the fourth border crossing.

Today's mythical kingdoms reign in strange worlds of their own

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Believe it or not, there is a file at the State Department filled with all kinds of curious documents about the rise and fall of countries that never existed.

It is kept in official-looking legal-size folders, and a few of its pages are even stamped Classified.

"I call it the 'Mythical Kingdoms, Kooky Kings, and Pretending Princes' file," says George J. Demko, director of the Office of Geographer, which has maintained this wonderful file for 40 years. More seriously, it has been labeled "Ephemeral States."

Represents Coralland

The newest entry is a letter dated Aug. 29, 1986, from a citizen of the United Kingdom of Coralland seeking to register as a foreign agent in the United States. Others have come from the King of the Mosquito Shore and Nation (on the east coast of Central America) and the Secretary of State of the Republic of Minerva — Land of the Rising Amll (on coral reefs in the South Pacific).

The file is very real even if the kingdoms are not. In contains letters of credentials, declarations, affidavits, and maps from persons claiming to have started their own countries. And it includes memos from a variety of U.S. government agencies inquiring about their legitimacy: Is there such a place? In most cases, these would-be rulers have declared dominion over land that actually exists, usually tiny, isolated islands, sometimes under several feet of water.

Like real countries, some of these kingdoms have proclaimed

declarations of independence, adopted constitutions, sought diplomatic recognition, sent out special envoys, displayed coats-of-arms, minted coins, and issued stamps, passports, and visas.

The geographer's office officially maintains a file on them because it is responsible for keeping track of the sovereignty status of all nations. "We have to know what and where everything is in the world," Demko says.

"The only problem with this file is that once you open it, you get fascinated by it," he says, opening it. "This is fun."

Inside, for instance, there's a lengthy lawsuit filed in the Court of Special Cases of the Republic of Morac-Songhrati-Meads in 1985 against an array of prominent U.S. officials, government agencies, and companies. It seeks at least \$25 billion in damages for infringement, unfair competition, harassment, and sabotage.

A whiff of competition

Morac-Songhrati-Meads, which formerly called itself the Kingdom of Humanity, has claimed islands — and oil rights — in the strategically situated Spratly chain in the South China Sea. But so have China, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Morton F. Meads, an American businessman, has contended his claim is the legitimate one because he is a descendant of the sea captain who discovered the islands in the 1870s while sailing under the British flag. Meads established his constitutional monarchy more than 30 years ago, locating its capital on Meads Island and choosing Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as its national anthem.

When Australia imposed a wheat quota that Leonard George



Casley couldn't live with, he turned his 18,500-acre Western Australia farm into the Hutt River Province (later kingdom) and proclaimed himself Prince. Hutt River formally seceded on April 21, 1970, a day that became its "national" holiday. A stone secession monument permanently marks the event. The kingdom, population 35, published a 53-page colour booklet about itself titled "The Birth of a Principality." Australia refused to

recognise its independent status.

To give Maori people, "a race that is speeding to oblivion," a place "to call their own, their rightful place in the sun," King Robert and Absolute Ruler Michara Heatara signed a declaration of independence in 1985 establishing the Maori Kingdom of Tetiti Islands in the South Pacific. His special envoy offered the United States a long-term lease on one island, situated about 500 miles off the New Zealand

coast.

"We regret to inform you that we cannot locate Furstenrum Castellania," a 1984 State Department letter in the file states. "We can assure you that the United States government does not have diplomatic relations with this ephemeral state." The Principality of Castellania had been created by a group of disenfranchised Austrians in 1974. Its location, somewhere in the South Pacific, was kept secret. According to one of its leaders, "Castellania is more a state of mind."

Claim ocean floor

Thinking globally, two self-styled rulers served notice on Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in 1975 of their rights as "sole owners of all of the ocean floor and seabed." Others, such as the Admiral of Oceano, have made similar sweeping claims.

A British couple created their own half-acre "island nation" in the North Sea by taking over a World War II radar-and-gun platform in 1966. The christened it Sealand.

One or two new mythical kingdoms pop up each year, Demko says. The one that originally created the file was Atlantis, born on a group of islands off Ecuador in 1933. An old entry notes that one of its citizens was once stopped at El Paso, Texas, when he tried to enter the United States using an Atlantis passport. The file still contains more documents on Atlantis than any other mythical kingdom.

One of the briefest entries just mentions a True Hug Nation. There's nothing in the file to tell where or what it is.

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Australia threatens to upset Sweden in Davis Cup final

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Doubles combination Pat Cash and John Fitzgerald defeated Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd of Sweden on Saturday to give Australia a 2-1 lead in the Davis Cup tennis final.

Cash and Fitzgerald, beaten only once as a pair, crushed the Swedish duo 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 on the quick grass courts.

The victory left Australia needing to win only one of the two reverse singles matches Sunday to dethrone the defending champions and repeat its 1983 cup final triumph over Sweden.

Cash, who defeated Edberg in straight sets Friday, faces Mikael Pernfors in the opening reverse singles, with Edberg then slated to face Australian Paul McNamee.

The Swedes are aiming to become the first team in 15 years to take the cup three years in succession, but the doubles result came as a major blow to their hopes.

Cash and Fitzgerald were a far more impressive pair, playing better as a team in front of a sellout crowd of 11,000 spectators.

Edberg looked as if his loss to Cash in singles play Friday had left him dispirited. The Australian Open singles champion served well, but made repeated errors.

The match lasted just 2 hours 11 minutes. The Australians romped through the first set in 24 minutes, dropping a total of just four points in their five service games.

One break of serve, against Jarryd in the fourth game, proved decisive. The second set was a lot tighter, lasting 46 minutes, but again it was Jarryd whose serve was broken in the seventh game.

The Aussies kept up the pressure in the third set and Edberg had to save three break points in the ninth game.

Then Fitzgerald dropped serve in the next game to allow the Swedes to take the third set 6-4.

Sweden is trying for its fourth win in the event, its first coming in 1975.

Under present captain Neale Fraser, Australia triumphed in 1973, 1977 and 1983.

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An Edberg double fault gave the Aussies their first break of the fourth set, then Jarryd dropped serve again. Edberg served two double faults in the seventh game before again dropping serve.

Fraser said: "there was no doubt the better team won. I thought we were unlucky not to win in straight sets."

Cash said he was looking forward to tackling French Open runner-up Pernfors.

"I'm really confident," he said. "He's an incredibly good player who returns well and passes well, but I've played a lot more at Kooyong and I'll put pressure on him."

"They played really well and we didn't get up to our usual standard," he said.

Australia is trying to win the Davis Cup for the 26th time. Only the United States, with 28 victories, has been more successful in the competition.

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Egypt leads in Dubai 4-nation soccer tourney

DUBAI (R) — Egypt led the table with three points against two each for Bulgaria and Sudan after Saturday's second round matches in a four-nations friendship tournament for "B" teams organised by the UAE Football Association.

The UAE trailed with a solitary point after a 2-2 draw (half-time 1-1) with Egypt in the second of Saturday's matches in Dubai's Al Nasr Stadium.

Earlier, Bulgaria beat Sudan 3-2 (half-time 2-0) in a well-contested game.

All three Bulgarian goals came from centre forward Areto Ichkoe, who scored from the penalty spot in the 20th minute of the first half and struck again in the 42nd.

Sudan came back into the game with a gallant solo effort by Hamad Al Ghani soon after the restart, then the irrepressible

Ichkoe returned with his third goal in the 57th minute.

Sudan tried gamely to stay in the running and closed the gap when Walid Tausheen converted a penalty in the 60th minute but then Bulgaria kept the Sudanese at bay until the final whistle.

UAE got off to a good start against Egypt when Abdel Rahman Mohammad netted from just inside the penalty area early in the first half.

The Egyptians, playing consistently, equalised in the 43rd minute and the two teams entered the second half even.

Once again UAE forged ahead with a 63rd minute goal by Youssef Nasseb, but Hamed Al Masri equalised for Egypt two minutes from the end.

Sunday is a rest day in the tournament.

On Monday Egypt plays Sudan and Bulgaria faces UAE.

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Arsenal goes seven points clear

LONDON (R) — Arsenal's centenary celebrations continued Saturday with a 1-0 Highbury victory over Southampton — a triumph which lifted it seven points clear of its closest challengers for the English League championship.

The London club, 100 years old on Christmas Day, had mercurial striker Charlie Nicholas in its starting line-up for the first time since September but it was Niall Quinn who stole the show by scoring in the 73rd minute.

It took Arsenal's unbeaten league run to 14 games and left it comfortably clear of Everton and Liverpool, split only by goal difference, in second and third place respectively.

Everton plays Sunday while Liverpool made amends for its upset home defeat by Manchester United Friday with a 1-0 win at Sheffield Wednesday. Ian Rush scored his 22nd goal of the season for Liverpool in the 64th minute.

Tottenham thrashed West Ham 4-0 Friday to further boost its title hopes, but visited Coventry Saturday and lost by the odd goal in seven. It even led twice as ace marksman Clive Allen took his tally for the season to 28.

Manchester United had

certainly produced the biggest upset of the two-game holiday programme by topping Liverpool in its Anfield stronghold and was expected to follow up with a home triumph over Norwich.

But the Bryan Robson injury jinx struck again and then Norwich's Kevin Drinkell scored the game's only goal 10 minutes from time.

England midfielder Robson limped off three minutes before the interval. He had torn a hamstring in his right leg after stretching for a tackle.

Coventry went on to beat Tottenham 4-3 after Keith Houchen and Dave Bennett equalised after Allen twice put the visitors ahead.

Bennett fired Coventry ahead midway through the second half and though Nico Claessen levelled for Tottenham, Cyrille Regis sealed the outcome in the final minute.

West Ham also lost after leading Wimbledon twice. Tony Cottee hit his 18th goal of the season in the third minute but John Fashanu replied for Wimbledon nine minutes later. A 36th minute header by Paul Hilton put West Ham ahead again

but Andy Sayer made it 2-2. Carlton Fairweather hit the winner in the 64th minute.

Chelsea lifted itself off the bottom of the table with a 4-1 triumph over Aston Villa. It also beat Southampton Friday.

Kerry Dixon scored twice and Nigel Spackman and Colin Pates one each, but Chelsea had defender Joe McLaughlin carried off on a stretcher after a 40th minute collision with Andy Gray. Paul Elliott replied late on for Villa.

Oxford's Gary Briggs was sent off against Queen's Park Rangers, 1-0 winners through a 59th minute goal from Robbie James.

John Barnes was on target for Watford in the 1-0 victory over Newcastle.

Scottish championship leader Celtic survived a scare at struggling Clydebank and escaped with a 1-1 draw.

Clydebank went ahead in the first half but Brian McLair replied in the 52nd minute and left Celtic five points clear of Rangers who went second with a 2-0 win against Dundee United.

Ally McColist and Robert Fleck scored early in the second half and the Rangers defence stood firm.

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America's Cup semifinals get underway

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — Australia IV, Alan Bond's sole hope to defend the America's Cup, climbed back into the lead in the battle for the 1987 cup defence on Saturday.

Australia IV overcame a strong push by the fast improving Sydney backmarker Steak 'n Kidney to win by just 19 seconds in 18 to 20 knot winds and a moderate sea.

The wind propels Australia IV into joint first place with Kookaburra III on 53 points. Not since the first defender races in October has Australia IV enjoyed top billing.

Kookaburra III lost narrowly to its teammate Kookaburra II in Saturday's first race of the defender semifinals.

Steak 'n Kidney's defeat virtually killed the Sydney yacht's chances of being one of the two to make the defender finals. One of the top two would have to lose each of the eight remaining semifinal races.

Meanwhile, the four yachts preparing to race in the challenger semifinals are still embroiled in controversy over the legality of the radical glass-fibre yacht New Zealand.

French Kiss will meet New Zealand Sunday and a syndicate spokesman Saturday said it would protest against the accuracy of tests taken early this week in an effort to banish doubts about the yacht's legality.

Race officials have endorsed the tests by the arbiter of the strict 12-metre class specifications.

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Lloyd's Register of Shipping, but the French say they dispute their accuracy.

Dennis Conner's Stars and Stripes and Tom Blackaller's U.S.A. meet from Sunday in the parallel best-of-seven semifinals and both have cast doubts on the tests.

Though all four finalists were checked and extra holes drilled in the New Zealand hull, the other finalists argue that only samples of the materials used in the hull will show its legality against conventional aluminium competitors.

The French had threatened to take the issue to the New York State supreme court — the sole interpreter of the deed of gift governing the America's Cup — but a spokesman said it would first await the outcome of Sunday's protest.

New Zealand syndicate chairman Michael Fay told a press conference Saturday he believed the tests should have silenced critics of the revolutionary yacht. "I think we're way past the deadline for these sort of issues,"

The four challengers have been hoing their yachts since the end of the challenger elimination rounds on Dec. 15. The French have gone as far as shortening the rear of the yacht and installing massive extensions to its winged keel.

Blackaller has installed new blades on his radical fore and aft-ruddered yacht while both he and Conner have received sail and technical help from the New

York Yacht Club's America II Syndicate which failed to make the semifinals.

Conner incurred the wrath of race officials Saturday when he took his training programme to the defender race course. They sent patrol boats to usher him away with the threat of a heavy fine for encroaching on the course.

The Kookaburras seemed undisturbed by Conner and Kookaburra II edged ahead in the beat to the finish after the two yachts had rounded the last mark together.

Steak 'n Kidney faces elimination under the rules of the regatta if it becomes "mathematically impossible for it to reach the defender finals. It must win its next two races — against Kookaburra II and Kookaburra III to stay alive.

Defender series organiser, the Royal Perth Yacht Club, has already increased the points awarded for semifinal victories to six from five to give the Sydney yacht a better chance.

The Bond Syndicate had opposed the change which could make it even easier for the Kookaburra teammates to influence the course of races and keep Australia IV out of the defender finals.

Yachting experts here are concerned that could deny Australia the chance to have truly competitive defender elimination races while the challenging yachts have had months of intense competition.

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Broad's century keeps England on top in Ashes

MELBOURNE (R) — Opener Chris Broad enhanced his growing reputation with another Ashes century to keep England in command of the fourth cricket test despite a fightback by Australia's best bowlers Saturday.

Broad hit 112, his third hundred in consecutive tests, and helped England to a first innings lead of 208 after Bruce Reid and Craig McDermott each captured four wickets to salvage a measure of Australian pride.

England, 95 for one overnight, was all out for 349 in the final over of the second day. It was flourishing at 219 for three but six wickets fell for 100 before Phil Edmonds and Gladstone Small frustrated Australia in a stand of 30.

Reid, who captured four for 78, and McDermott, with four for 83, in his first appearance of the series, led Australia's attempt to stay in contention after it

crumbled for 141 Friday. But it faces an immense task if it is to wrest the Ashes from England's grasp.

England, 1-0 ahead in the five-test series, was indebted to the dependable Broad, whose century followed his 162 in Perth and 116 in Adelaide. Sir Jack Hobbs, twice, and Wally Hammond are the only other batsmen to score three hundreds in successive tests against Australia in the same rubber.

Broad, discarded after playing five tests in 1984, had to rebuild his international career on the current tour. "There was great incentive for me to succeed after I had been written off as test material," he said.

"It was more difficult today than my efforts in Adelaide or Perth. The Perth wicket was the best to bat on and Adelaide was very good, but this one was two-paced. It keeps low but there is nothing wrong with it."

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McDermott, who took four for 83, in his first appearance

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese lira continues free fall

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's pound, battered by political insecurity and violence, slumped to a new record low Saturday, losing 8.6 per cent in value against the U.S. dollar, dealers said. It closed at 87.00/89.00 to the dollar against 80.00/82.00 Friday, when it lost more than 10 per cent in value. "Political unrest and a shortage of the dollar on the local market have probably contributed to the plunge," one dealer said. "There was a lot of demand, but little offer." The pound was worth 18 to the dollar at the beginning of 1986 and five to the dollar a year earlier. Its collapse has raised sharply prices for imported goods, which make up an estimated 80 per cent of consumption, and created a mood of despair among many ordinary Lebanese.

GCC to promote small traders' activities

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The trade cooperation committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has agreed to promote the commercial activities of small traders in member states in the new year. According to committee chairman, Sheikh Seif Al Jarwan, who is economy and commerce minister of the United Arab Emirates, the new procedures will come into effect on March 1, 1987. He said the committee had agreed to adopt similar measures for wholesalers from March 1, 1990. The committee of trade and industry ministers from the GCC member states of Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman also reviewed the setting up of a judicial centre to decide on commercial cases and other issues.

Qatar seeks more Bangladeshi workers

DHAKA (R) — A Qatari minister arrived here Saturday on a five-day visit to discuss the recruitment of more Bangladeshi workers, the official BSS news agency said. Sheikh Ali Ahmad Al Ansary, minister of labour, did not specify the category of workers his country wanted to recruit to add to the 22,000 Bangladeshis already working in Qatar. Bangladesh has a total of 470,000 expatriates, mostly doctors, engineers and teachers, working in Gulf and Arab countries and earns about \$500 million yearly from their home remittances.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 28, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you think out and decide a campaign of action under which you can obtain the goals that most animate you. Start to put the plan into motion now.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Meditation can help you to rid yourself of whatever hinders your progress. Have a delightful time with your mate tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study whatever arises this morning and later you can get into the specifics of whatever activities indulge you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A fine setting today to have a meeting with your partners so that you can come to a perfect understanding.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get amusements arranged for the days ahead and make appointments with your friends.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The morning should be spent improving conditions in your home. The evening can be very happy with your mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study into whatever will give you a better understanding of life and all of its pleasures.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Dig into your checkbook and know exactly where you stand financially. The evening is good for radio or TV.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan how to gain your intimate wishes and then go after them in a positive way. You will win out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure you know what your most intimate wishes are. Get out there and see your best friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Look to one of fine character for backing with some promising project. Know your personal aims.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get an early start in the outside world and accomplish what you have in mind quite easily.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get your philosophy of life more deeply imbedded in your consciousness. Be with friends you like.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have two phases to the existence. The introvert will soak up as much knowledge as possible, and the extrovert will use the education acquired and become quite a success in the world at large. Much travel is denoted here and many interesting changes, too.

THE Daily Crossword by H. Kermit Jackson

ACROSS
1 Crochery
6 Like Homer's
10 Door post
14 Certain horse
15 Change decor
16 Culture
17 Old-womenish
18 Valley
19 Corn bread
20 Tire type
21 Ragged
24 Surrounded by
25 Mistakes
27 State founder
30 Lower value
32 Fish sauce
34 Blases
35 Atlantic fish
38 Wind instru-
ments for
short
40 Mr. Whitney
41 Grade
43 Blast stick
44 Cien symbols
47 Large rattles
48 Inorganic
substance
49 Luxuriate
50 Poetic image
53 Hinduism
54 monk
55 Speaks against
56 Peacock rabbit
62 Tax level
63 — the Red
65 Of a dry
66 Roman road
67 Large moth
68 Rhine feeder
69 Seta
70 Poetic
measures
71 Old Persians

DOWN
1 Tails for
2 Mandrill
3 Scur
4 Trust
5 Reverie
6 Work unit
7 Stone
8 Concept
9 Vile
10 Quipsters
11 Or. market-
place
12 Impressionist
13 Dutch city
21 Toppers
23 Lock of hair
25 Tails out
27 Former time
28 Dash
29 Succeeding
31 Farm worker
32 Blast
33 Unhealthy
sleep
36 Great work
37 Lactem
38 Fence crossing
42 Baited native
43 Reductive
pronoun
48 Snaiting
49 Clerical caps
50 Small branch
51 Slanged
52 Tourist stop
54 Gorki
56 Actual
57 — die
58 Historic
Scott
59 Tailed on
60 Tailed on
61 Freezes up
64 Grimeless

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

WORLD SAVER STAR
ELIAN PRATLE FARGO
MILITARY AFFAIRS
POINTING GILLMAN
ANEW REB
LAPSE LAPE SHAVIA
LIFE ADOLPH ALERA
GENERAL ADAMTARS
ORIS BOINGIE EYIE
STOIRS REIO ADLER
HOD SODIA
PATEREN PENSED
PRIVATIERMIRANCE
ACIE ARRIER WOOD
THEIR POSIOR AWINIO

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 20, '86 and ending Wednesday, Dec. 24, '86. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	30740	42418	1.380	1.370	1.000
Petra Bank	4332	10210	2.420	2.310	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	250	552	2.220	2.200	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	16249	30474	1.910	1.850	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	6415	8746	1.350	1.390	1.000
Housing Bank	987	1685	1.720	1.680	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	2003	4405	2.170	2.200	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	939	27335	29.000	29.250	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1047	17494	16.700	17.000	5.000
Arab Bank	1050	141020	133.750	134.250	10.000
Jordan National Bank	229562	638613	2.720	2.690	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	28100	19436	0.710	0.680	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	20921	18092	1.400	1.350	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	141156	53160	0.880	0.880	1.000
National Financial Investments	1250	1683	1.350	1.340	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	15663	9808	0.630	0.600	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	11482	10789	0.980	0.920	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	5233	88961	17.000	17.000	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Bank of Jordan (New Issue)	14097	227302	16.200	16.700	5.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	30608	94207	3.070	3.180	1.000
REFOCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	700	630	0.930	0.900	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	500	425	0.950	0.850	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arabian Sea Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	7782	10922	1.360	1.400	1.000
Petra Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	8825	6871	0.780	0.780	1.000
Universal Insurance	1000	650	0.650	0.650	1.000
General Insurance	2000	3500	2.000	1.750	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Izhar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	41820	24054	0.610	0.570	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	2200	1034	0.480	0.470	1.000
Management and Consultancy	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Development and Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Investment	26407	19129	0.690	0.720	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	9569	1664	0.680	0.670	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	17680	7779	0.940	0.940	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajerco	16216	25513	1.590	1.580	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	767	804	1.020	1.050	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	13165	5436	0.430	0.400	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	200	1030	5.150	5.150	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	14650	13776	0.940	0.940	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	2750	915	0.330	0.320	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	19776	24258	1.230	1.230	1.000
Jordan Dairy	15892	33158	2.140	2.000	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	43490	32518	0.780	0.750	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	930	2200	2.500	2.330	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	15922	22017	1.480	1.300	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intal)	284	1364	4.800	4.800	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	39739	34233	0.890	0.840	1.000
Aladdin Industries	161747	190009	1.170	1.170	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	900	4130	4.450	4.450	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	581	603	1.040	1.040	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	750	788	1.060	1.050	1.000
Chemical Industries	1150	481	0.450	0.410	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	1720	2302	1.430	1.340	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	107356	189541	2.030	1.730	1.000
National Steel Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Mining	2750	4940	1.800	1.790	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	6077	44274	7.290	7.290	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	12288	2127	0.180	0.170	1.000
National Industries	10884	8607	0.780	0.790	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	9268	2317	0.250	0.250	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	150	146	0.970	0.970	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	10848	14230	1.340	1.310	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	624	1621	2.600	2.600	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	5000	5000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Hinch Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	350	245	0.800	0.680	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Brewery	400	1460	3.650	3.650	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	6950	5572	0.830	0.780	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	10065	8344	0.840	0.790	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	3530	2083	0.590	0.590	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	96562	111452	1.400	1.380	1.000
Grand total	1,314,350	2,320,815			

U.S. oil imports from Gulf Arab countries rise sharply

NEW YORK (OPECNA) — U.S. imports of crude oil and petroleum products have jumped from 4.5 million barrels per day (b/d) at the beginning of the year to a current level of 6.2 million b/d, according to statistics collated here.

The daily average of 5.9 million barrels of oil imports over the first 10 months of 1986 is 25 per cent higher than the corresponding period of last year.

As the volume of imports has risen to meet rising demand, the percentage of oil supplies from Arab Gulf countries has nearly tripled, to 13 per cent from five per cent in August 1985, the figures show.

A recent study of world oil trends by Cambridge Energy Research Associates and Arthur Andersen and Company found

39 years that such data has been collected. This month, 954 rigs are operating compared with 1,962 a year ago.

— Spending by U.S.-based oil companies on exploration and production is expected to drop to \$22.3 billion from last year's \$29.8 billion, while total capital spending will fall by \$11 billion to \$33 billion, according to the Cambridge-Andersen study.

— Employment in the oil industry has fallen by 144,000 in a year to 582,000, its lowest level since 1977.

— "This is a cyclical business, but nothing in its history prepared anybody for this devastation," said Mr. Lloyd Unsell, president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, which represents the smaller oil companies.

French strikes may continue until '87

PARIS (R) — A rail strike which has paralysed much of the French rail network looked set Saturday to last into 1987 with neither side in the dispute willing to make a move following the unions' rejection of the latest management offer.

The state-owned SNCF Railways faced a 10th day of heavy losses with a skeleton service of around one in six scheduled mainline trains expected to run from Paris.

The strike appeared as solid as ever Saturday, with no trains at all leaving Paris' Gare du Nord, which serves the northern region, and other stations averaging between one in 10 and one in three normal departures.

The railways are laying on coaches to transport thousands of people to destinations in the north and to ski resorts in the Alps.

Major unions Friday brushed aside an offer by SNCF Director General Jean Dupuy to discuss the train drivers' demands once they had returned to work.

Mr. Andre Bergeron, leader of the moderate force Ouvriere Union, said: "There is no way we

can accept going back to work as a precondition for negotiations."

An SNCF spokesman said Saturday that Mr. Dupuy only wanted to see the start of a move back to work before beginning talks, as negotiations were likely to last a long time and the railways could not stand the continuation of a major strike throughout the discussions.

Unions and management broke off talks last Tuesday as the unions said the SNCF had refused to open discussions beyond pay. The SNCF is offering a 1.7 per cent wage rise in 1987, plus one-off bonuses.

A key issue in the dispute is the management's plan to modify salary scales to give greater weight to merit payments — a move the unions see as enabling management to reward workers who do not strike.

Mr. Dupuy said Friday he was ready to discuss this issue, as well as working conditions, but only after a return to work.

Meanwhile, a stoppage by seamen, who have been protesting since mid-December against a government plan to restructure

the merchant fleet, continued to disrupt activity in many large ports in the south and the west. The strike is also blocking car ferries between the mainland and Corsica.

The seamen are opposed to a decision to allow ships to be registered in France's Antarctic territories, making it possible to recruit crews which are 75 per cent non-French.

They are also against a plan to redefine the category of sailors, which would exclude service staff, and a decision to reduce accident and sickness payments.

The wave of strikes this month has presented a major challenge to the rightist government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, which is committed to liberalising the economy and fighting inflation and unemployment.

The government has so far avoided much direct involvement in the labour disputes, though government spokesman, Mr. Alain Juppe, said last week that a loss of control over wage rises would spur inflation and lead to higher unemployment.

Castro announces austerity measures

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has announced austerity measures for next year that he says are intended to affect consumption as little as possible, the Prensa Latina reports.

President Castro told the national assembly on Friday that "the years of thin cows" would serve to teach Cubans to be more efficient and thrifty, eliminating negligence and other bad habits lingering from the pre-revolutionary era, the official news agency reported. He took power in 1959.

The dispatch, monitored in Mexico City, quoted President Castro as saying the austerity measures would include fuel conservation, adjustments in student participation in agricultural work and reduction of television broadcasts.

Other measures included doubling the price of city bus rides from 5 cents to 10 cents, increases of about 40 per cent in electricity



Fidel Castro

Cuba's foreign exchange earnings were expected to decline from \$1.2 billion to \$600 million.

His speech Friday appeared to echo comments at the closing session of the congress when President Castro said economic hardships lay ahead for Cuba.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"If you're handy with tools, I can give you a great deal on this dining-room set!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RYCED
WEJEL
INGADE
NAULCY

THAT HAMMY MAGICIAN KNEW HOW TO MAKE THIS DISAPPEAR.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: EMERY STEED MILDEW PURITY
Answer: What a belly dancer has to know how to do—TWIDDLE HER "TUM"

Sri Lanka holds first direct talks with Tamil guerrillas

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The Sri Lankan government Saturday held direct talks with Tamil guerrillas in an attempt to end a three-year separatist war.

A government spokesman told Reuters that Vincent Perera, a member of parliament, headed a delegation that met leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the Jaffna peninsula, a rebel stronghold.

Military sources in Jaffna, 320 kilometres north of here, said Mr. Perera's group held talks with Krishna Kumar, alias Kittu, the LTTE commander in the area, and his deputy, Kanagaratnam, alias Raheem.

The meeting took place at a town hall in Kankesanur, a seaside town near Palali military camp.

"We are hopeful that this is the start of a genuine dialogue with the rebels," the spokesman said.

"He (Perera) has the blessing of the government but he has no official status. His mission is to sound out the rebels on what they want, what their conditions are to start a fresh dialogue," he said.

He said: "If his talks give rise to some kind of a reply on which the government is prepared to

negotiate, that is if they agree on the structure of devolution put forward by the state, then the government will start negotiations with them."

"They'll also have to lay down their arms before coming to the negotiating table."

He said Perera, a Tamil-speaking member of President Junius Jayewardene's ruling United National Party, was invited by former classmates in Jaffna to talk to LTTE leaders.

He said Felix Dias Abeysinghe, secretary of a conference convened by Mr. Jayewardene to discuss autonomy plans for Tamils, accompanied Mr. Perera, along with two other political advisers.

The spokesman said India's role as a mediator would continue in a "parallel move" while the Sri Lankan government tried to start direct dialogue with the rebels.

The government wants to end the Tamil separatist war by devolving power to autonomous councils that would be set up in all

provinces.

But talks with top Indian officials on Sri Lanka's new proposal to set up provincial councils for Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims in the eastern province ended in stalemate last week.

The government rejected a rebel demand for a merger of the northern and eastern provinces.

The government first negotiated with the rebels in the Bhutan capital of Thimpu in August, 1985, at a conference attended by Indian officials. But the militants walked out of the conference.

A two-day Christmas ceasefire between rebels and soldiers ended at midnight Friday. The military accused the LTTE of firing at troops clearing land mines Friday.

Thirty separatist rebels were killed in a series of clashes between two guerrilla groups in the eastern province of Batticaloa over the past ten days, residents said Saturday.

They told Reuters by telephone that the latest clash was on Christmas Day in Palankudah when four guerrillas and a civilian were killed.

The LTTE and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) have

been locked in a battle since mid-December at Batticaloa.

On Friday LTTE announced that on New Year's Day it would declare a civil administration and police powers in the northernmost Jaffna peninsula, the main guerrilla stronghold.

More than 50 rebel traffic police in special LTTE uniforms will take to the streets on Jan. 1, guerrilla Commander Subramaniam Kanagaratnam told the AP in a telephone interview.

Other LTTE appointees will issue postage stamps, collect taxes and issue licenses for vehicles and liquor stores. The move, just short of secession, was considered a demonstration of the rebels' power.

Meanwhile in another major development in India, a headline Tamil official resented by the Sri Lankan government resigned abruptly earlier this week from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's administration.

Gopalswamy Parthasarathy, a powerful voice in India's Sri Lanka policy for years, was regarded by many policy makers in Colombo as an obstacle to a settlement on the island.

No official reason was given for the resignation.

Sikh gunmen kill Congress activist in Punjab

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A local leader of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party was shot to death by Sikh extremists Saturday, a day after four members of a family and a Hindu doctor were killed by Sikh gunmen.

Sudesh Kumar, president of a Congress Party neighbourhood council, was shot by three men as he worked in his shop in Amritsar, the United News of India (UNI) reported. The killers escaped on scooters.

In Garhdiwala, 95 kilometres east of Amritsar, gunmen believed to be Sikh militants shot to death Dr. Jalbir Chand Friday night as he rode home from his clinic on a scooter, UNI said.

Sikh extremists often have targeted political officials, doctors and teachers, seeking to intimidate the public in their battle for a separate Sikh nation.

A family of four was killed by Sikh extremists Friday, UNI said.

Three gunmen raided the family's home in Kapurthala district late Friday, shooting to death four people and wounding a fifth, the news agency said.

The identity of the family was not immediately made public.

The attack occurred in a village near the town of Sultapur Lodhi, which is 60 kilometres south west of Amritsar.

More than 650 people, mostly Hindus and moderate Sikhs, have died in hit-and-run attacks in northern Punjab state this year.

Sikh militants have been waging a four-year guerrilla campaign for an independent Sikh homeland in the Punjab.

Peking to hold elections, pledges more democracy

PEKING (AP) — Peking officials announced Saturday that elections for local legislatures will be held in the Chinese capital early next year and promised the electoral process will be more democratic than in the past.

The announcement was in apparent response to student protests that have occurred in at least nine Chinese cities in the past few weeks. The latest, on Friday night in Nanking (Nanjing), involved some 4,000 students, sources said.

The Peking officials, in a three-day meeting that ended Friday, also approved tough restrictions on demonstrations in the capital, according to reports by the official Xinhua News Agency and the Peking Daily.

The decision by the Standing Committee of the Peking Municipal People's Congress, or legislature, said People's Congresses at the district, county, township and village level in the Peking area will be held during the first half of next year.

Elections were last held in 1984, and the terms of office of the local representatives will be up soon, the Peking Daily said.

The reports did not say exactly what electoral procedures will be implemented to make the elections more democratic, but quoted committee Vice Chairman She Diquing as saying the government should stress public participation in elections and debate on major issues.

Peking student activists have not specifically mentioned the issue of representation in the local People's Congress, but it has been a major issue in student demonstrations in other cities.

An unidentified spokesman for the Standing Committee's meeting was quoted by the Peking Daily as saying public participation will be stressed as people become more educated in

the law.

The Standing Committee also approved regulations restricting demonstrations to those approved by police, and outlawing gatherings at several locations in Peking, the newspaper said.

China's people have the constitutional right to demonstrate, and local regulations must decide how to guarantee that right and protect the public, said Su Zhongxiang, head of the Peking Public Security Bureau.

Reports on the meeting dominated the front page of the Peking Daily and were accompanied by an editorial saying regulations on demonstrations are routine in many other countries, including West Germany, Japan and France.

China's legal system must be reformed to accommodate greater democracy, the editorial said. The demonstrations have caused traffic problems, interfered with people's lives, and some of the demonstrators have opposed the constitutional supremacy of the Communist Party, Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse-tung thought and Socialism.

China's leading newspaper, the People's Daily (Renmin Ribao), carried a front page article Saturday denouncing "Western bourgeois democracy" and saying such ideas have a bad influence on youth.

The reports were part of a major media blitz criticising the demonstrators this week following protests in Shanghai in which tens of thousands of students participated.

Student demonstrators have advocated everything from political reforms of the current system to Western-style democracy under which the Communist Party would be on equal footing with other parties.

11 people killed in Fijian plane crash

NADI, Fiji (AP) — A four-engine plane crashed short of a runway at the Nadi airport Saturday, killing eleven people and injuring three others, authorities said.

The dead included six Americans, an Australian and four Fijians, including the pilot and co-pilot, authorities said.

The plane, operated by Fiji-owned Sunflower Airlines, was on a 250-kilometre flight to Nadi from Savusavu, on the northern Fiji island of Vanua Levu, authorities said.

Survivors from sunken ship arrive in Faeroe

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Five Icelandic seamen hoisted from the North Atlantic by helicopter were in fair condition Saturday after arriving in the Faeroe Islands aboard a Danish Coast Guard frigate, rescue officials said.

Six other crewmen aboard their freighter died of exposure when the Suderland sank on Christmas Day. Twelve seamen aboard a British-owned tanker, the Syneta, died in a shipping disaster Friday.

"They will be taken in normal cars to the hospital," Poul Andreasson, officer on duty at the Faeroe Sea Rescue Command, said of the survivors. "They have suffered shock and frost injuries, but they are in fair condition."

The five survivors were rescued by a Danish Coast Guard helicopter 17 hours after the 3,500-ton (3,140-metric ton) Suderland went down in heavy seas Thursday between Iceland and Norway.

Three of the 11 crewmen were lost immediately. The other eight managed to get into life rafts, but three of the men had died of exposure by the time the helicopter arrived. The water temperature was 3 degrees centigrade (37 F).

The survivors were winched onto the helicopter and flown to the Danish Coast Guard frigate

Banned S. African group to mark 75th anniversary

LUSAKA (R) — South Africa's banned African National Congress (ANC), a foe of the country's apartheid racial system, said Saturday it planned big celebrations on Jan. 8 within South Africa and abroad to mark the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The black nationalist movement's President Oliver Tambo wrote in a special anniversary pamphlet published in Zambia that the anniversary would be an opportunity for all South Africans "to adopt new initiatives aimed at making further advances towards the birth of a democratic South Africa."

The ANC was founded as an organisation for peaceful change in South Africa in 1912. It was banned in 1960 following the police shooting of 69 people in Sharpeville during a protest against the pass laws, and has since conducted a guerrilla campaign to end apartheid racial segregation and white domination in South Africa.

Reviewing the current situation of growing black unrest in South

Africa, Mr. Tambo said "the heightened offensive for democracy that has gripped our country for more than two years now is both unstoppable and irreversible."

"In the face of these developments, the apartheid regime finds itself with no alternative but to admit the utter bankruptcy of its policy and resort to extreme measures of repression that are doomed to failure," he added.

"All its actions are those of a regime that is fighting for its very survival."

Writing in the same pamphlet, ANC Secretary General Alfred Nzo said "1987 will be observed in South Africa as the year for the all-round intensification of our people's offensive for the destruction of the apartheid system and the creation of a non-racial democratic South Africa."

Both Mr. Tambo and Mr. Nzo reiterated the ANC's call for international economic sanctions against Pretoria.

Filipino ceasefire committee says rebels violated truce

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The National Ceasefire Committee (NCC) ruled Saturday that Communist rebels violated their two-week-old ceasefire agreement with the government by displaying guns in a village a day after the truce went into effect.

The committee called for no sanctions, however, saying the rebels' euphoria over the accord and the fact that the show of force did not lead to violence were "mitigating factors."

Francisco Pascual, representative of the Communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF), which

negotiated the ceasefire, disagreed with the majority ruling of the five-member committee and said he would file a dissenting opinion later.

The committee is headed by Bishop Antonio Fortich and includes Mr. Pascual, Philippine Constabulary Chief Maj.-Gen. Renato De Villa and two civilians designated jointly by rebel and government negotiators.

"The NCC team finds from its ocular inspection, interviews and documents presented to the committee substantial evidence to support a finding that a violation of the ceasefire agreement had been committed on Dec. 11,"

World leaders urge immediate Soviet pullout from Afghanistan

NEW YORK (Agencies) — On the seventh anniversary of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, world leaders Saturday accused Moscow of human rights violations in the country and demanded an immediate withdrawal of all Red Army troops.

"There can be no military solution," said British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

"We, the European Community and the rest of the world look to the Soviet Union to agree to a rapid and complete withdrawal of its forces. Only this, not cosmetic gestures, can bring the agony of the Afghan nation to an end," he said in a statement.

Sir Geoffrey was joined by the leaders of China, Japan, West Germany and France. In The Hague, Netherlands, a Soviet embassy car was set on fire Friday in apparent protest of the Soviet intervention.

Soviet forces poured into Afghanistan on Dec. 27, 1979, to protect its 20-month-old Communist government from the rebels. The Kremlin installed as leader Babrak Karmal, who had been living in exile in Czechoslovakia. Former secret police chief Najibullah took over from Karmal in May.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has hinted that he wants to bring some of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops home, but also said there would be no pullout without guarantees that other nations stop what Moscow calls interference in Afghan affairs.

China's Foreign Ministry issued a statement Saturday saying the Soviet presence was endangering security and peace in the region.

"The key to the settlement of the question of Afghanistan lies in the early withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan," the ministry said.

In Bonn, spokesmen for the three government parties called the Soviet presence in Afghanistan "genocide" and demanded the immediate withdrawal of all troops.

"The federal government supports the striving of the Afghan people for peace, freedom, self-determination and genuine non-aligned status," said West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The Japanese government called the situation in Afghanistan "deplorable." Chief government spokesman Yoshio Hatano said Japan supports efforts by the United Nations to negotiate a peace settlement. Afghanistan and Pakistan, which houses millions of Afghan refugees, have been holding indirect U.N.-sponsored talks in an effort to settle the conflict. The main sticking point is the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The next round of talks is scheduled for February.

The French Foreign Ministry called on the Soviet Union to "renounce the illusory temptation of force and finally accept to engage itself on the road to a negotiated settlement."

The ministry also said it planned to step up material and humanitarian aid to Afghan

refugees.

Sir Geoffrey accused the Soviets of "trying to keep the realities of this war a secret."

"They talk of withdrawal. Instead, they and their client regime have only intensified the war," he said.

Sir Geoffrey said the United Nations has estimated that 49,000 civilians have been killed in Afghanistan in the last two years. There are an estimated five million Afghan exiles, many of them living in refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran.

About 1,000 Afghan exiles marched through Islamabad Saturday shouting anti-Soviet slogans and demanding the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, witnesses said.

During the protest, held to mark the seventh anniversary of the Kremlin's military intervention, some of the demonstrators burned a dummy representing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

All the seven main rebel groups fighting the Communist-led government in Kabul were represented.

A march round the Aabpara market area of the Pakistani capital was led by some 200 small boys.

Police banned the protesters, who were all males, from marching on the Soviet embassy and waiting Pakistani riot squads with shields and batons were not needed.

The banners called for the "jihad," or holy war, of the Afghan guerrillas to be continued

Actress Elsa Lanchester dies at 84

LOS ANGELES (R) — Elsa Lanchester, the British-born actress who starred as the Bride of Frankenstein and made many memorable films with her late husband Charles Laughton, died at the age of 84, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Lanchester was admitted to the motion picture and television hospital in suburban Woodland Hills nine days ago and died at 1258 GMT Friday of bronchial pneumonia, spokeswoman Jean Ferris said.

Lanchester, who specialised in playing eccentric spinsters and witty dowagers in her 50-year career, left no family or relatives and requested that no services be held.

"She was a very private person and requested that no further information be given out other than to say she wanted no memorial services," Ferris added.

Friends said Lanchester, who came to the United States with her husband in 1932 and became an American citizen in 1950, had suffered several strokes in recent years and spent most of her time in her Beverly Hills home.

Lanchester and Laughton were married for 33 years until the actor's death in 1962. Lanchester never remarried, but continued working through 1978, when she made the film *Murder By Death*.

An actress since she was 16, she was born Elsa Sullivan in London on Oct. 28, 1902. She started the

children's theatre in London in 1918 and worked on the stage in both London and New York before joining the Old Vic Sadler's Wells Company in 1933.

Lanchester made her first film, *Daydreams*, in 1930 and had the title role in the *Bride of Frankenstein* in 1935. She continued working through the 1970s in such Disney films as *Rascal* and *Blackbeard's Ghost*.

Some of her more memorable films also included *David Copperfield* (1935), the *Ghost Goes West* (1936), *Ladies in Retirement* (1941), *Lassie Come Home* (1943), the *Spiral Staircase* (1946), the *Razor's Edge* (1946), *Les Miserables* (1952) and *Mary Poppins* (1964).

COLUMN

Man held with gold in weighing machine

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi customs agents saw a man struggling to carry a weighing machine through Dhaka street, opened it and found \$20,000 worth of gold inside, police has said. They said Abdul Kalam, a Bangladeshi who arrived on a flight from Dubai via Kathmandu, was arrested on smuggling charges. If found guilty he faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Homeless man kills drifter

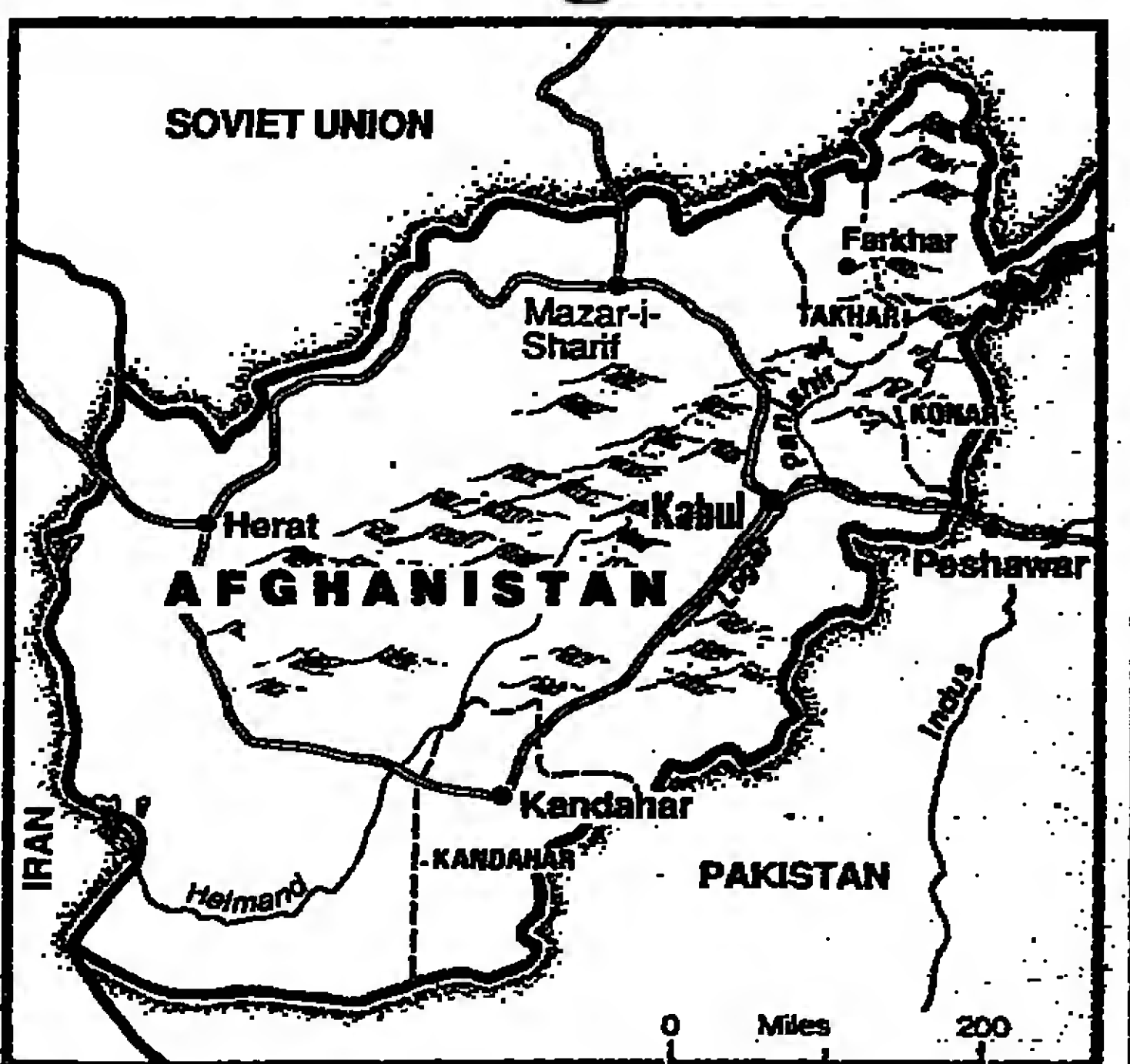
MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP) — A man who lived with four stray cats under a bridge was being held in jail Saturday after leading police to the grave of a drifter he admitted beating to death for trying to drown the pets, police said. John Patrick O'Neill, 50, was charged Friday with second-degree murder in the slaying of Daniel Francis Kelly, 58, said Miami Beach police spokesman Howard Zeitman. "I kind of feel sad for the guy," said detective Robert Hamilton. "If he didn't come in and tell us about it, there's a very good chance that we never would have found it. I guess it was bothering him." O'Neill told police he had been taking care of four stray cats under the MacArthur Causeway, which crosses Biscayne Bay from Miami to Miami Beach. Other drifters made their homes there. On Christmas, there was even a small tree withinsel, said Hamilton. O'Neill said he returned to the bridge on Dec. 19 to discover Kelly had thrown the four cats in the bay, where they were unable to claw their way up the steep banks. O'Neill leaped into the water and rescued the animals, then confronted Kelly, who allegedly pulled a knife. The two men fought, and O'Neill said he beat Kelly unconscious. Zeitman said O'Neill went to sleep, then realised the man was dead the next morning.

Ukrainian war criminal sentenced to death

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet court sentenced a Ukrainian man to death for killing Soviet citizens as a member of the Nazi SS in World War II, the TASS news agency reported Friday. The Soviet Union's official news agency said Grigory Shurub was sentenced after a two-week trial in his native city of Chernigov, about 144 kilometres north east of Kiev. It said Shurub volunteered for service in an SS battalion in January 1943 "and took a personal part in murdering and torturing Soviet citizens." It accused him of killing at least 10 inmates who did not manage to break out of a concentration camp near Cherhigov during a mass escape on Feb. 21, 1943. TASS said that 625 people in nearby villages were executed or burned alive for helping escapees, but did not say whether Shurub was accused of taking part in those actions.

20-year-old gift delivered in unusual wrapping

OWATONNA, Minnesota (AP) — A two-decade-old Christmas gift was delivered in unusual wrapping — a junked station wagon illuminated with flickering candles and packed with a welded conglomeration of 170 generators and motors. "Somewhere in here is a brown pair of trousers just for you," Larry Kunkel told Roy Collette, his brother-in-law, after making the delivery. "Merry Christmas." "No, not in front of the house," Collette lamented as the station wagon landed with a thud, its rear axle scraping the pavement as it was unloaded from a trailer. "I don't want it." The 21-year-old Moleksin pants were originally a gift to Kunkel from his mother while he was a student at St. Cloud State University. He wore them a few times and gave them to Collette, and they have been exchanging them since. Collette last year delivered the pants inside a 3.397-kilogramme block of concrete that was reinforced with fiberglass, metal shavings and heavy steel rods and then baked in a kiln. Fastened around the block were 2,000 feet of oak crate, lumber, cross-hatched with 7,000 air-driven metal staples. The wood was specially treated not to burn, Kunkel said. He used a jackhammer on the packaging and Collette said, "I know that'll hurt, but he got it out."



to victory and one declared, in English: "We do not want political solution."

Iran has called for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and pledged support for the Afghan people, the national Iranian News Agency IRNA said.

A Foreign Ministry statement, issued in Tehran Friday night on the anniversary of Soviet military intervention in 1979, demanded that Afghanistan's sovereignty be restored to "the Muslim Afghan people," IRNA, received in London, said.

The statement said the "seven-year-heroic resistance of the Afghan people against the Soviet troops once more proves the global arrogance's inability to suppress freedom movements through military occupation."

It said "immediate and unconditional" withdrawal of Soviet forces, an end to interference in Afghanistan, by "arrogant powers," the return of Afghan refugees to their country and respect for and recognition of sovereignty and territorial integrity were essential for solving the issue.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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7 + 3 = 10

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ Q J 10 8 7 5
♥ A 9 8
♦ 10 8 6
♣ Void

WEST EAST
♠ K 4 3 ♠ A 9 2
♥ Q 7 ♥ 6 5 4
♦ K 9 8 ♦ Q
♣ 10 8 4 ♣ Q J 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ Void
♥ K 10 3 2
♦ A 7 5 2
♣ A K 9 7

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 4♥ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♣.

No, we are not trying to push a new system; we, North had not taken leave of her senses. This hand is from a team even in France which was won by the Omar Sharif squad. What had happened at the table was that South had opened one diamond out of turn. As a result, her call was cancelled and the bidding reverted to North, who was barred for the rest of the auction. So South bravely decided to try and salvage something from the mess and bid four hearts.

West would have liked to be able to get a look at dummy before committing himself to an opening lead.

However, he had no ace, and he was reluctant to lead away from any of his honor cards; so he chose a club. Declarer made short work of the hand.

On the ace-king of clubs she discarded two diamonds from dummy. After cashing the ace of diamonds, she proceeded to cross-ruff the hand. A club was ruffed in dummy, a spade in the closed hand and a diamond on the table. Although East had a singleton diamond, he had no trump higher than the eight. So declarer was able to ruff two more spades in hand and two diamonds in dummy. She still had to make the king of trumps for a total of ten tricks—the three minor-suit winners and seven trumps on the cross-ruff.

Obviously, a trump lead would have defeated the contract one trick. In the other room, the contract was four spades. East led the queen of diamonds. Declarer won in dummy, took two diamond discards on the top clubs, came to hand with a club ruff and led the queen of trumps. West won and reverted to diamonds. Declarer ruffed low (ruffing high would not help). East overruffed and shifted to a heart. Then in with the ace of spades East returned another heart and declarer ended up losing three trump tricks and a heart—down one.